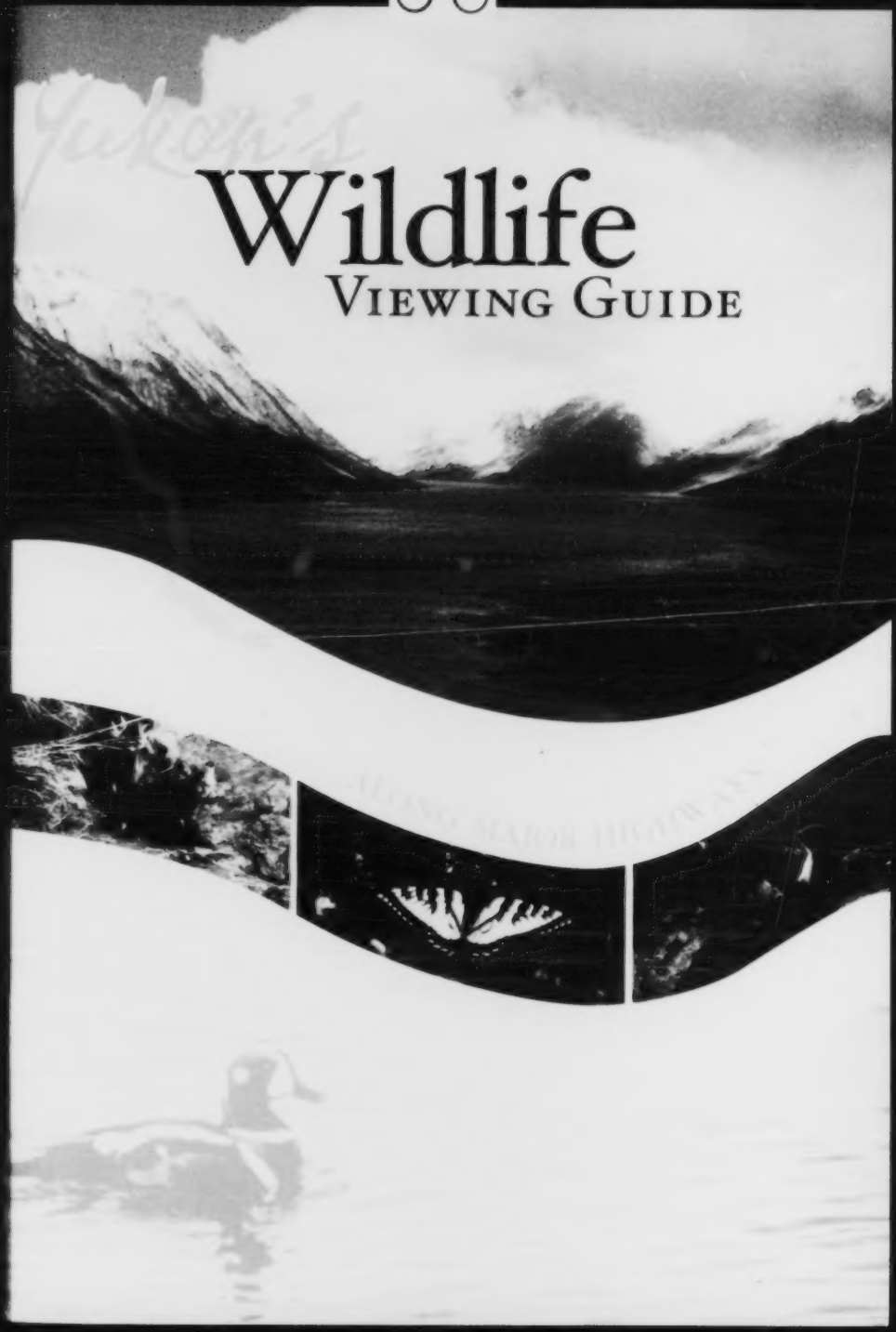
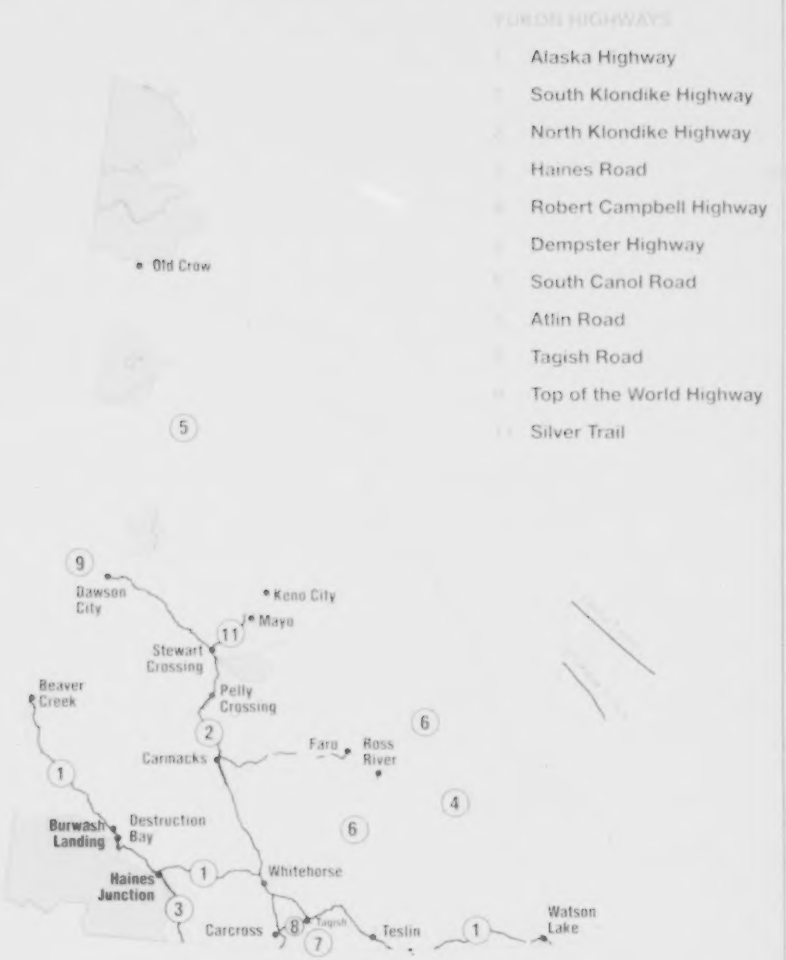
YUKON WILD

Yukon's Wildlife

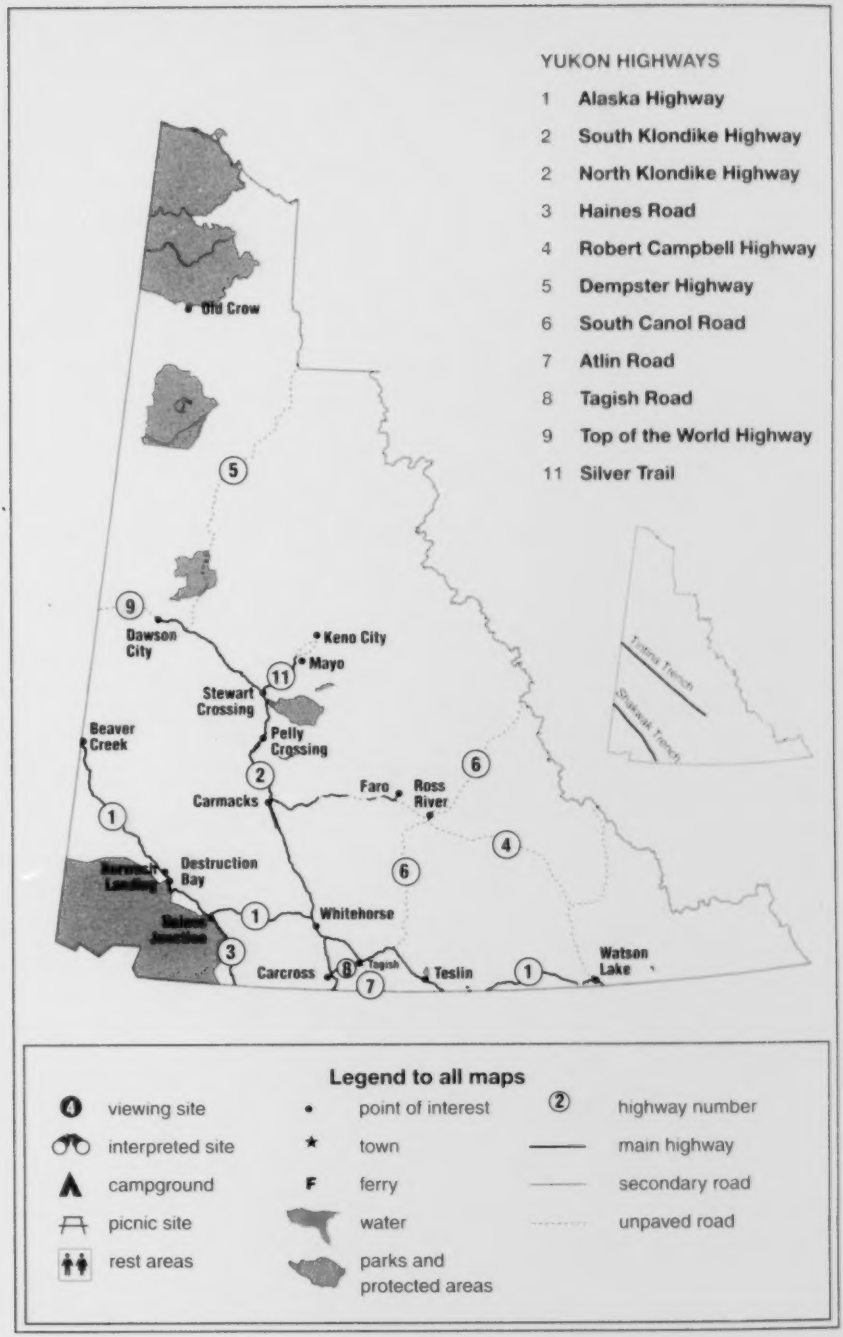
VIEWING GUIDE





Legend to all maps

viewing site	point of interest	2	highway number
interpreted site	town		main highway
campground	ferry		secondary road
picnic site	water		unpaved road
rest areas	parks and protected areas		


YUKON HIGHWAYS
1 Alaska Highway
2 South Klondike Highway
2 North Klondike Highway
3 Haines Road
4 Robert Campbell Highway
5 Dempster Highway
6 South Canol Road
7 Atlin Road
8 Tagish Road
9 Top of the World Highway
11 Silver Trail
Old Crow
Dawson City
Keno City
Mayo
Stewart Crossing
Pelly Crossing
Beaver Creek
Carmacks
Faro
Ross River
Destruction Bay
Whitehorse
Carcross
Tagish
Teslin
Watson Lake
Tintina Trench
Shakwak Trench
Legend to all maps
viewing site
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rest areas
point of interest
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water
parks and protected areas
highway number
main highway
secondary road
unpaved road

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Yukon's Wildlife
Viewing Guide
Along Major Highways

Introduction		2
Etiquette		3
Precautions		3
Tips to wildlife viewing		4
Habitat		4
Outdoor recreation		9
Alaska Highway	Highway #1	11
South Klondike Highway	Highway #2	26
North Klondike Highway	Highway #2	28
Haines Road	Highway #3	34
Robert Campbell Highway	Highway #4	36
Dempster Highway	Highway #5	40
South Canol Road	Highway #6	46
Atlin Road	Highway #7	48
Tagish Road	Highway #8	48
Top of the World Highway	Highway #9	49
Silver Trail	Highway #11	50
Sources of information		52
Index: Species with locations		55
Index: Wildlife viewing sites		59
Contacts		inside back cover

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Maps by R. Mulder

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Aussi disponible en français comme «Guide d'observation de la faune du Yukon» publié en 2001.

Porcupine Caribou Herd

Introduction

When the word "wildlife" is mentioned, most people envision vast herds of caribou, a majestic moose, or a grizzly bear fishing in a pristine mountain stream. Yet, in the Yukon, there is far more to wildlife than showy, large mammals. The Yukon is known to be home to four species of amphibians, 63 species of mammals (including humans), 224 species of birds, 1,184 species of plants and over 1,500 species of insects. Most people enjoy wildlife viewing during summer, yet wildlife abounds throughout the year. The key to successful wildlife viewing is to know where and how to look.

Your task is to discover the hidden wildlife in the landscape, using this guide as your travelling companion. Be aware that the guide is by no means complete. Many species, such as snowshoe hare, can be found throughout the Yukon and not just at the sites mentioned. There is so much to see and do here that one guide cannot cover everything. However, we have provided some of the highlights.

Sites in this guide are listed by highway and by kilometre post. **The highways have changed over the years; many are much shorter than when they were originally built. Please note that the kilometre posts you see at the side of the road are only indicating approximate distances.** In 2001, the Alaska Highway was reposted to kilometre 1520 (mile 943.8). Beyond this point, few kilometre posts will be found.

The description of each wildlife viewing site includes:

- a profile of the activities available;
- a short description of trails or canoe routes including the level of difficulty, length, and completion time; and
- the best season or time of year to view the wildlife mentioned.

Yukon government campgrounds, rest areas and picnic sites are noted for your convenience. Most offer excellent opportunities to enjoy the Yukon's wilderness. Sites marked with the binocular symbol (👓) are developed "Yukon Wild" interpretive or orientation sites and will provide you with useful information representative of the area. A list of books and brochures appears on pages 52-54. These items will provide you with even more detailed information about various aspects of wildlife viewing in the Yukon.

Etiquette

While enjoying the Yukon's backcountry, remember the following:

- Pets should never be allowed to run at large and it is illegal to let them chase or molest wildlife.
- Carry your food in sealed containers and pack out your garbage. Bears are attracted to the smell of food and garbage. Once accustomed to humans as a source of food, bears may become dangerous and may have to be destroyed. A fed bear is a dead bear.
- Arctic flora is delicate and sensitive. Use established trails and boardwalks to minimize disturbance.
- You may find what appears to be an "orphaned" bird or animal, please leave it behind. The parents are most certainly nearby, waiting for you to move away before coming back to retrieve their offspring.
- A bird that displays any "odd" behaviour or that calls and flies over your head is likely a parent requesting that you move on, carefully. Many birds nest on the ground and are vulnerable to trampling. Wandering visitors can flush birds from their nests, leaving eggs or young vulnerable to predators.
- Respect the space of other viewers.
- Don't let anyone harass wildlife. Report illegal hunting, trapping or fishing to the "Turn in Poachers" hotline at 1-800-661-0525.

Beaver watching on the Dempster

Precautions

To best prepare yourself for travelling safely in the Yukon backcountry, pick up a free copy of *Into the Yukon Wilderness* (available at visitor centres).

- Feeding wildlife is never a good idea. Wildlife require natural foods to remain healthy. Wildlife that become accustomed to human food often become nuisance animals and have to be killed. Yukoners try hard not to spoil wildlife. Please do your part and do not feed any wildlife species, for your safety and theirs.
- Fire is an important natural part of the boreal forest, however, fire frequency is increasing due to careless campfires. Please be careful. Make sure that your campfires are completely out before leaving your site.
- Overhanging vegetation on riverbanks, large standing dead trees, or trees with nests or nestholes are all important wildlife habitat. It is illegal to disturb a nest. Please respect the land and the creatures on it.
- Whether you are canoeing, kayaking, hiking or camping, a few precautions will ensure your comfort and safety. Bring some warm clothes, as the weather in the Yukon can be unpredictable. Wear appropriate footwear for the area in which you plan to walk. If you are travelling unmarked trails or routes, carry a compass and map of the area. Pack all the food you will need. While it is enjoyable to add wild blueberries to breakfast cereals, do not plan to "live off the land."

Tips to wildlife viewing

Swan viewing on the Haines Road

Appreciating wildlife and maintaining biological diversity are the goals of wildlife viewing. By visiting parks and protected areas, you will improve your chances of seeing wildlife in a pristine habitat, now and in the future. Leaving the busy highway corridor is often the best way to see wildlife and to appreciate it in its proper habitat. There are three general tips that you can use to improve your chances of seeing wildlife.

- Take your time and be quiet. Plan on making many stops when you are travelling. Slowly scan the landscape for movement. Wildlife that went into hiding may come out again when all is quiet.
- Wildlife tend to be more active in early morning and evening. Take a short walk before breakfast or after dinner. You may be pleasantly surprised at what you find. Remember, in summer, the arctic evening lasts all night.
- Use binoculars, spotting scopes, and telephoto lenses to get a more detailed look or a better photo without scaring the animal away or endangering yourself.

Habitat

Habitat — where an animal lives — is your key to successful wildlife viewing. By recognizing the Yukon's habitats and the animals that use them, you will be rewarded with satisfying wildlife experiences. Each species uses its environment to provide it with the essentials of life: water, food, space, and shelter from the elements and predators. Be a wildlife detective; look for clues left behind, tracks in the mud, droppings, scratch marks on trees, or cast-off antlers.

The type of habitat selected by an animal may change with each season and with the food that is available. Some species prefer the edges between two types of habitats. The descriptions in this guide provide you with the basic information you will need to recognize wildlife's living areas.

The Yukon's many habitats are described here under seven general categories: still water, flowing water, boreal forest, mountains, arctic tundra, marine and coastal habitats, and south-facing slopes.

Still water: lakes and wetlands

Still water includes some wetlands and lakes. Wetlands include shallow bodies of water with heavy growth of aquatic and shoreline vegetation. Many orchids grow in the moist soil surrounding wetlands and bloom in June and July. Wetlands with dense aquatic vegetation are good habitats for Northern Pike (known locally as Jackfish).

Wetlands provide nesting, feeding and escape habitat for waterfowl such as Lesser Scaup, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and American Wigeon.

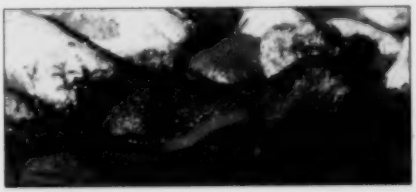
Old Crow Flats, Vuntut National Park

Muskrat push-ups, seen on the surface of lake ice soon after the ice forms, remain throughout the winter and spring. These are feeding and resting platforms built by muskrats so they can gather food further from their bank dens than they would otherwise be able to reach. Pointed stumps and dome-shaped lodges with nearby underwater branch piles are signs that beavers are nearby.

In summer, wetlands are important feeding areas for moose and provide them with escape routes from attacks by predators such as gray wolves and grizzly bears. The summer diet of moose consists of aquatic vegetation along with willow buds and leaves.

Yellow Warblers and many other species of songbirds nest in the vegetation surrounding wetlands. Some birds feast on insects that emerge from the water during June and July.

Larger lakes provide abundant stocks of fish for Ospreys and Bald Eagles. These lakes are the preferred habitat of the Common Loon, well known for its haunting call. Lakes also provide habitats for Lake Trout, and Lake Whitefish. In fall, they become staging areas for waterfowl where hundreds of birds can sometimes be seen.



River otter *Stephen J. Krasemann*

Flowing water: streams and rivers

Many species of fish and birds inhabit rivers and streams. Arctic grayling and whitefish are common species in Yukon rivers. They attract many predators to these areas. A mink's diet, for example, includes muskrat, mice, snowshoe hare, fish, frogs and sometimes birds. River otters prefer fish but will occasionally forage on river bottoms for aquatic insects or eat birds, muskrats, voles and shrews. Mink and river otters may raise their families in abandoned muskrat and beaver bank dens. Moose are also attracted to river corridors to feed. Harlequin Ducks nest on the banks of fast flowing rivers and feed on aquatic invertebrates, as does the American Dipper. The Spotted Sandpiper probes exposed sandbars and muddy shores for buried invertebrates. In most of the steep riverbanks, colony-nesting Bank Swallows can be found. River sandbars are ablaze with the colour of river beauty or dwarf fireweed in July and August. Floating quietly downriver in a canoe may reveal a bear that has come to feed on lush grasses and horsetails. A gray wolf may serenade the night sky close to your campsite. Be wary of grizzly bears when salmon are spawning in late summer and fall, especially near noisy streams.

Boreal forest

Canada's boreal forest is part of a great northern circumpolar band of mostly coniferous forests extending across the subarctic regions of Russia, Scandinavia and North America. Different habitats exist within the forest. White spruce, the most common tree species, grows in a wide range of moisture and soil conditions, and is largest along rivers.

Boreal forest *Stephen J. Krasemann*

Lodgepole pines grow in the drier areas with well-drained soil. These areas often support large tracts of lichens, an important winter food for woodland caribou. Trembling aspen grow well on open slopes and in areas regenerating after fire. Aspens have smooth, whitish-green chalky bark but are famous for the leaves that "tremble" with the slightest breeze. Black spruce grow in areas with poorly drained wet soil, often over permafrost. Deep-rooted balsam poplars grow along river corridors and in moist draws, where their roots are kept wet year-round.

Aspen, white spruce

A wide variety of plants cover the forest floor. Bunchberry, pink-flowered wintergreen, twinflower, soapberry shrubs and Labrador tea grow in open forests. Dead trees and fallen logs provide shelter for many small animals, such as voles and red squirrels, which themselves are the main diet of pine marten. Listen for the chattering of red squirrels and the movement of grouse on the forest floor. The spruce/aspen forest is also home to Great Gray Owls that nest early in spring. Gray Jays or "camp-robbers" may visit you at your campsite or lunch spot. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Slate-coloured Juncos and Boreal Chickadees sing until late July.

Recent burn areas support new growth of grasses, shrubs and berries which attract moose and black bears. Snowshoe hares use the forest for shelter from predators such as the lynx and feed in willow thickets and burn areas. Red fox and coyotes hunt for small mammals and birds' eggs.

Mountain habitats: alpine and subalpine

There is a cool-climate habitat above the tree line. In many places in the Yukon, it is difficult to determine where alpine tundra becomes arctic tundra. Grasses and sedges, and in drier situations mountain avens and bearberry, are the dominant vegetation near and in the higher altitudes. Subalpine fir (the Yukon's territorial tree), shrub birch and willow grow in the subalpine habitat below. Thinhorn sheep and mountain goats feed on grassy slopes near cliffs where they can escape from predators such as wolves and grizzly bears. In summer, Wood bison can be seen in the alpine of the Aishihik area. The ptarmigan's seasonal camouflage protects it from the watchful eyes of Golden Eagles and Gyrfalcons. Listen for the shrill call of the hoary marmot in alpine meadows and the soft "chirp" of the collared pika, a relative of the snowshoe hare, in rock piles on talus slopes. It makes use of a wide variety of plants growing near its home including leaves of mountain avens, arctic lupines, showy crazyweed, dwarf huckleberry, kinnikinnick and grasses. Grizzly bears feed on grasses, berries and other green plants and dig out arctic ground squirrel colonies. Woodland caribou feed on sedges during the summer.

Groundhog Mountain, South Canol Road

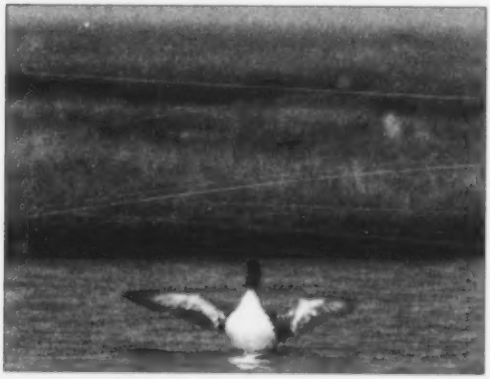
Arctic tundra

Arctic tundra is usually defined as the land beyond the northern limit of tree growth. However, in the Yukon, arctic tundra may contain stands of boreal forest almost to the Arctic coast. This is an environment of permafrost features (pingos and patterned ground), wetlands and low vegetation such as mosses, lichens, cottongrass, shrub birch and sedge tussocks. The many wetlands of the tundra attract a wide variety of birds to nest. Tundra Swans, Red-throated Loons, Long-tailed Ducks and Red-necked Phalaropes build grassy nests near wetlands. Wilson's Warblers, White-crowned Sparrows and Common Redpolls nest in the willows and dwarf birch shrubs surrounding wetlands. Long-tailed Jaegers hunt from the sky for small mammals or eggs and chicks of tundra birds.

Richardson Mountains, Dempster Highway

Marine and coastal habitats

Coastal areas include a wide range of habitats from beaches to spits, cliffs, sea ice, lagoons and coastal plains. The Beaufort Sea is a seasonal home for beluga and bowhead whales, and ringed and bearded seals. Polar bears spend the summer hunting ringed seals along the edge of the permanent ice pack, far off shore. Snow Buntings, Common Redpolls and Lapland Longspurs are the messengers of spring on the north coast. Common Eiders, Arctic Terns, Rough-legged Hawks, and many other bird species are present here during the vibrant arctic summer. In July, Herschel Island teems with life. Colourful blooms of woolly lousewort, arctic lupine, mountain avens and showy Jacob's-ladder carpet the ground. The Coastal Plain is quite distinct from the arctic tundra everywhere else. Snowy Owls, arctic fox and many other predators rely on small mammals, such as lemmings and voles, for their survival. Gray wolves and tundra grizzlies are major predators of the barren-ground caribou.



Red-throated Loon *Stephen J. Krasemann*

South-facing slopes

South-facing slope communities are scattered throughout southern Yukon from the British Columbia border to the Klondike. The warm slopes allow for shallow snow conditions, early green up and summer drought. These areas often are free of trees or have small stunted aspens. Pasture Sage *(Artemisia frigida)* and Purple Reedgrass *(Calamagrostis purpurascens)* dominate them. These slopes are important wildlife areas. In winter look for deer and elk that seek the shallow snow covered slopes for food and escape cover. In spring bears that feed on the early greens commonly use them. Least chipmunk and arctic ground squirrel often make their home in these sun-warmed areas. Some of the best examples of these slopes occur between Carmacks and Ross River, Marsh Lake and Carcross and in the Kluane area. These slopes may be a remnant of prehistoric grasslands of Beringia. Imagine steppe bison and wooly mammoths feeding there.

Hidden Lakes

Outdoor recreation

Camping

The Yukon government, Parks Canada and commercial operators offer a selection of campgrounds for every taste and budget. For more information on commercial campgrounds, consult *Canada's Yukon, the Official Vacation Guide*.

Camping in Vuntut National Park

You need a Yukon government campground permit to camp in Yukon parks. Permits can be purchased from all visitor centres, Environment Yukon offices, territorial agents, liquor stores and various vendors such as gas stations, highway lodges and stores. Look for businesses displaying the bright orange sign "Daily Yukon Campground Permits Sold Here." You may purchase as many permits as you require. Each campground has a registration station for campers to deposit the registration portion of the permit.

Hikes and walks

The possibilities for trailside adventures in the Yukon are just about endless. Whether you prefer short, easy walks or more difficult hikes that require many days to complete, you will find trails that suit your purpose. Most of the trails described

Hikers at Printer's Pass, near Kluane Lake

in this guide are marked and easy to follow. For the adventurers, many trails exist that are not marked but are still accessible. A few local guides offer hiking information for specific areas, providing wildlife watchers with an opportunity to gain access to a variety of settings.

On the Yukon River, at Lewes Marsh

Water travel

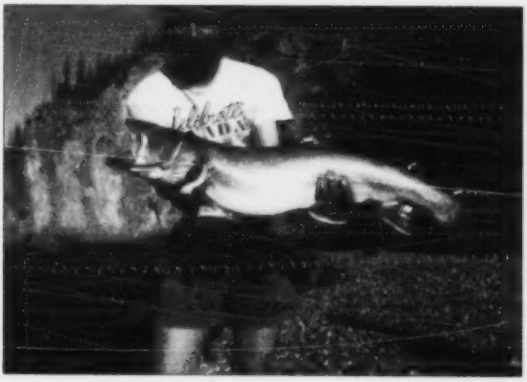
A trip down one of the Yukon's many beautiful rivers or on a quiet lake may be the best way of seeing a variety of wildlife species. A few lodges rent canoes or you can organize a trip through a company specializing in canoe and rafting trips. Consult *Canada's Yukon, the Official Vacation Guide* for a list of these companies.

Before travelling down Yukon rivers on your own, you would be wise to research your trip. The descriptions of rivers in this guide are not complete so do not rely entirely on this source. Other books, however, can provide you with detailed information about the dangers and difficulties encountered on specific Yukon rivers. Please ensure that you have the proper first aid and river rescue equipment, as well as ample clothing and food to complete your trip safely.

Fishing

If fishing is your passion, many streams and rivers offer excellent opportunities. Whether you choose to keep the fish or not, you must have a valid fishing license to angle in Yukon waters. Licenses are available at community Environment Yukon offices, the Fisheries and Oceans Canada office, most highway lodges, sporting goods stores, hardware and general stores and gas stations.

If you plan on fishing for salmon in the Yukon, you must purchase a *Salmon Conservation Catch Card* in addition to a Yukon fishing license. This card can be obtained where you purchase your fishing license.



Bull trout from Beaver River

Fishing in national parks requires you to purchase a National Park Fishing License. These are available at the Kluane National Park Reserve Visitor Reception Centre or the Parks Canada office in Whitehorse.

On the Alaska Highway, the distance in kilometres (miles) refers to the distance from Dawson Creek, B.C. Historic miles relate to the original mileposts established soon after the construction of the Alaska Highway.

1 Liard Canyon - Lucky Lake Recreation Site *km 970.5 (mi. 602.8)*

A 2.2 km (1.4 mi.) nature trail takes you past Lucky Lake through a mature pine and spruce forest, to a viewing deck overlooking the Liard River. Panels along the way and at the deck interpret the natural and cultural history of the area. Allow about one hour and 15 minutes to complete the trail. Watch for forest birds such as Gray Jays, Northern Flickers and Black-capped or Boreal chickadees.

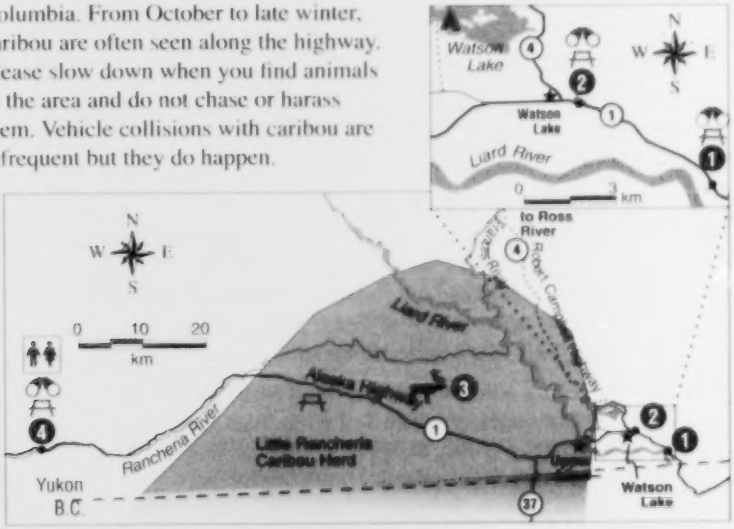
2 Wye Lake Trail *km 979.5 (mi. 608.4, historic mi. 635)*

A 1.5 km (1 mi.) trail winds around Wye Lake, in the heart of Watson Lake. Numerous species of waterfowl and songbirds stop here during spring migration or live here throughout the summer. Red-necked Grebes nest in the open water of the lake. Tree and Violet-green swallows fly swiftly overhead. Pileated Woodpeckers, Clay-coloured, White-throated and Swamp sparrows make Wye Lake one of their most northwestern homes. Interpretive panels along the trail present information on Yukon wildflowers and local bird species.

Junction with the Robert Campbell Highway, Highway #4
km 980 (mi. 608.7), see page 36

3 Little Rancheria Caribou Herd *km 992-1063 (mi. 616-660)*

This is the winter range of the Little Rancheria Caribou Herd that moves between the Yukon and northern British Columbia. From October to late winter, caribou are often seen along the highway. Please slow down when you find animals in the area and do not chase or harass them. Vehicle collisions with caribou are infrequent but they do happen.



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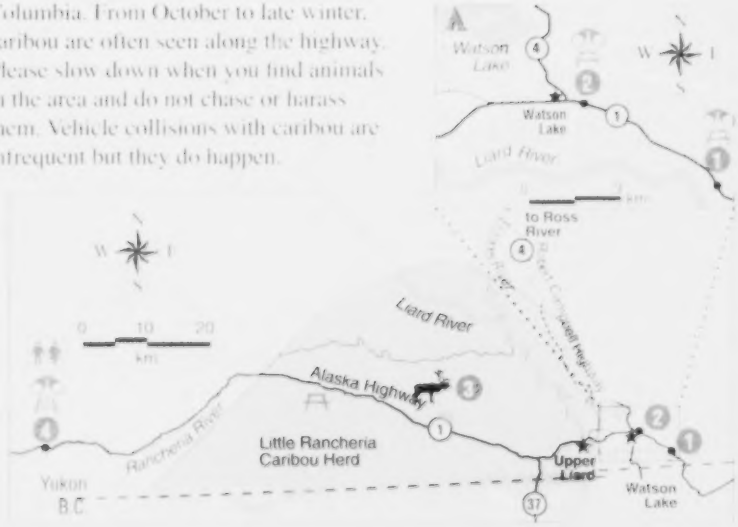
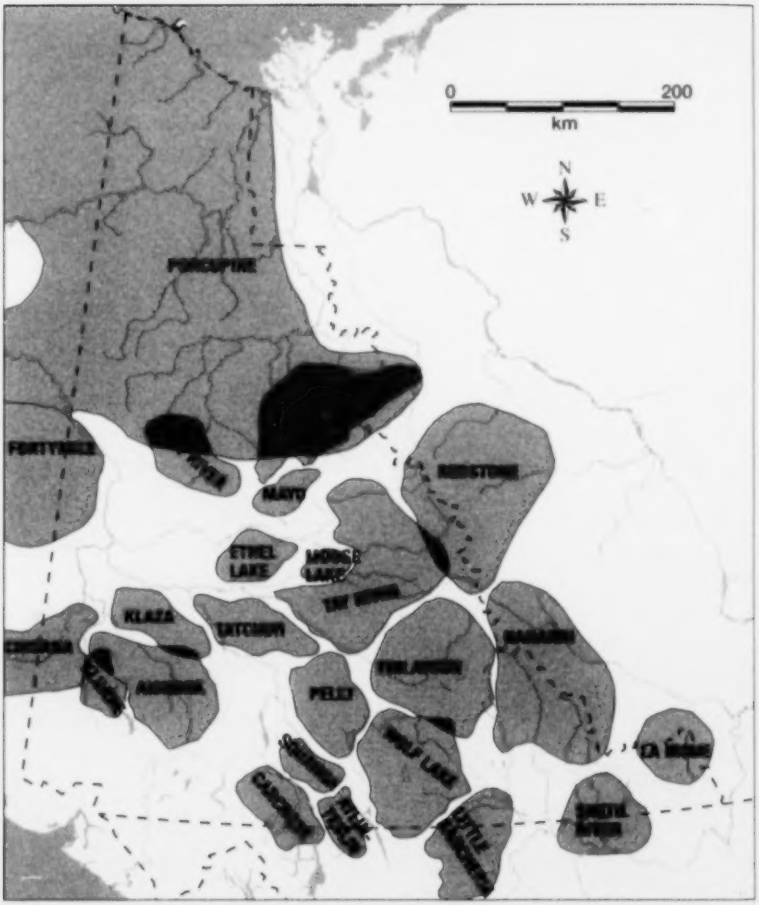


Rancheria Falls Recreation Site

Back-country wildlife viewing: Wolf River



Barren-ground caribou herds (Porcupine and Fortymile) and Woodland caribou herds in the Yukon.

4 **Rancheria Falls Recreation Site** *km 1112.5 (mi. 691)*

An easy 10-minute boardwalk trail leads you through boreal forest to a picturesque waterfall on the Rancheria River only 0.5 km (0.3 mi.) away. Least chipmunks sometimes gather food along the trail and American Dippers might be braving the rapids to feed. Panels along the trail interpret features of the boreal forest, the benefits of fire and the life of the American Dipper.

5 **Back-country wildlife viewing: Wolf River**

You will need to fly from Teslin into Wolf Lake with your canoe and you should allow 5 to 6 days to complete the trip. Salmon spawn in the river in mid-August and attract grizzlies, Bald Eagles and wolves. The water is clear and shallow, making fish viewing easy. Moose are often seen feeding on

shoreline vegetation. Canoe and kayak enthusiasts, comfortable in Class II+ whitewater, will enjoy the 120 km (74 mi.) stretch of river from Wolf Lake south to Nisutlin River and onto the Alaska Highway at Teslin.

6 Nisutlin Delta National Wildlife Area *km 1243 (mi. 777, historic mi. 804)*

The National Wildlife Area is the most important waterfowl fall migration stopover in southern Yukon. There are two ways of exploring Nisutlin Bay. You can paddle down Nisutlin River or travel across Teslin Lake to the bay. The put-in for Nisutlin River is at an unmaintained campsite at km 68 (mi. 42) on the South Canol Road (page 46). Plan to take 4 to 6 days to complete the trip. If you only have one or two days, explore Teslin Lake and Nisutlin Bay by canoe. Put in at the Teslin boat launch and paddle northeast towards Nisutlin Bay up to the delta of the Nisutlin River. Be aware of weather as winds may make travel on the open water of the bay dangerous. The extensive delta of shifting sand in Nisutlin Bay provides a feast of aquatic plants for migrating waterfowl in the fall. They attract birds of prey and other predators in great numbers.

Nisutlin Delta

Trumpeter and Tundra swans, Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Mallard, American Wigeon and Barrow's Goldeneye and hundreds of shorebirds are only a few species that stage there in fall. Peregrine Falcon, fox, coyote, wolf and many others come to hunt.

Learn about the fish species found in Teslin Lake from the interpretive panels at the park, on the west side of the bridge.

7 Teslin Lake Interpretive Site *km 1247 (mi. 774.9)*

North of Teslin, look for a large pullout on the west side of the road. A deck with interpretive panels overlooks Teslin Lake. The panels interpret Teslin Tlingit First Nation history and bird life. In spring and fall, watch for waterfowl such as Canada Geese, Northern Pintail and shorebirds staging in the area.

8 Deadman's Creek *km 1273 (mi. 791)*

Watch for a small group of stone sheep on the east side of the highway near Deadman's Creek. Three types of thinhorn sheep make up the Yukon's estimated 22,000 sheep. Dall sheep are pure white, number around 19,000

and are abundant in southwest Yukon. The remainder of the population is stone sheep or coloured sheep that occur in small pockets in southern to central Yukon. Where the two species overlap and interbreed, a unique colour variation of Fannin or saddle-back may be found. Fannin sheep only occur in the Yukon and Faro is one of the best locations to view them (see page 37).

Junction with the South Canol Road, Highway #6

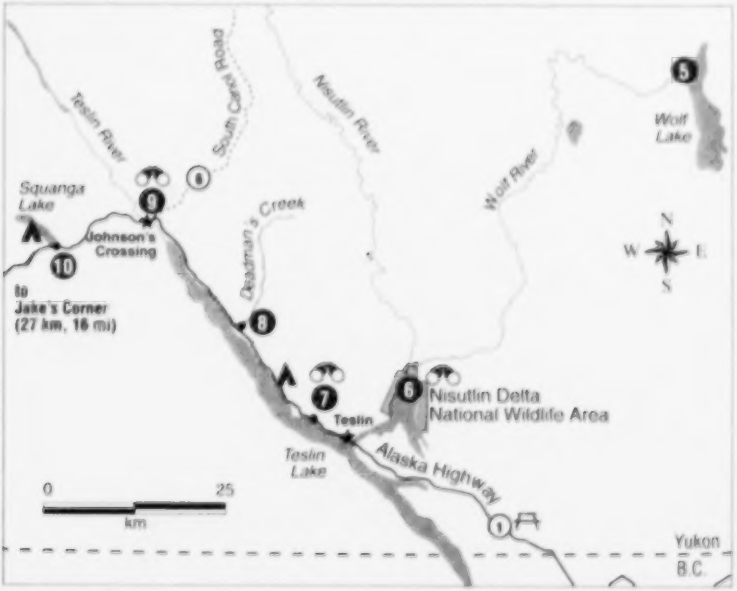
km 1295 (mi. 804.7), see page 46

9 Johnson's Crossing – Teslin River *km 1296 (mi. 805.3, historic mi. 836)*

The bridge at Johnson's Crossing is home to a huge Cliff Swallow colony. Trumpeter and Tundra swans, and many other species of waterfowl stage in the river during spring migration. Boating enthusiasts will find a wildlife-rich experience travelling down the Teslin River. At the boat launch, interpretive panels describe the fish of Teslin Lake. You can launch at Johnson's Crossing and travel to Carmacks or all the way to Dawson City. It is a 370 km (230 mi.) trip to Carmacks, about 7 days by canoe, and then a futher 402 km (250 mi.) down the Yukon River to Dawson.

10 Squanga Lake *km 1316 (mi. 817.7)*

Desgwáage Méne' (whitefish lake) is the Tagish name for Squanga Lake after the rare Squanga Pygmy Whitefish that make this lake their home. A pair of Osprey nest on top of the tower at the nearby Squanga Airstrip (km 1320.7, mi. 820.7). Watch for these large birds of prey, dark brown above and light beige below, perched on poles along the north side of the

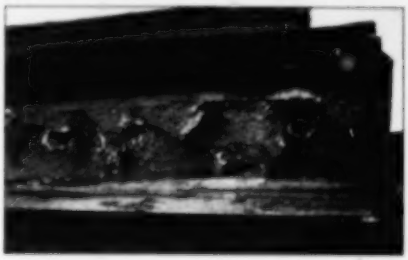


highway just east of the lake. Osprey feed on Northern Pike, Burbot (locally known as lingcod), Lake Trout and Arctic Grayling found in the lake. A hill northeast of Squanga Lake, visible from the Alaska Highway, is called Dasgwaanga Tóoli in the Tlingit language (whitefish hill). It takes its name from the lake. (Angela Sidney, 1980. *Place Names of the Tagish Region, Southern Yukon*. CYI, Yukon Native Languages Project)

11 Jake's Corner

km 1341.6 (mi. 833.7, historic mi. 866)

This is the junction for short side trips either to Atlin, B.C., or to Carcross via the Tagish Road. (See Highways #7 and #8 on page 48). Cliff Swallows nest on the specially designed bird houses near the service station. The Carcross Caribou Herd, one of the Southern Lakes Caribou Herds, is often seen along the highway during the winter, especially north near Judas Creek. Please slow down when travelling this section in winter.



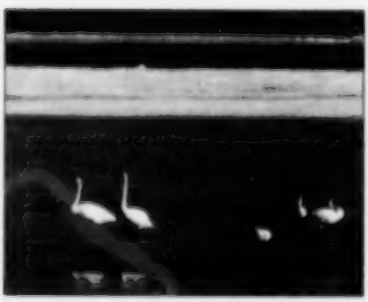
Cliff Swallow nests

Woodland caribou *Stephen J. Krasemann*

12 Swan Haven, M'Clintock Bay

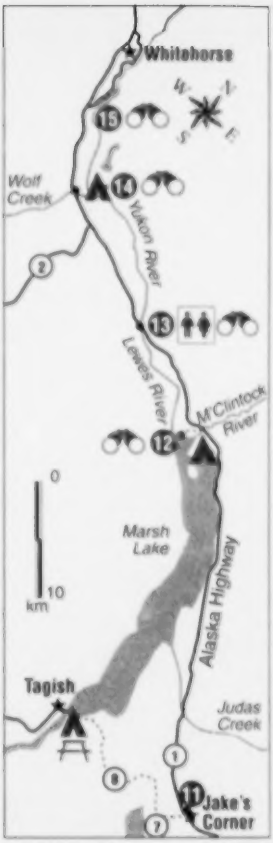
km 1381 (mi. 857.5)

The north end of Marsh Lake, where the M'Clintock River joins the lake, is called M'Clintock Bay. You can access M'Clintock River and the bay from a boat launch at the M'Clintock River bridge. M'Clintock Bay is a critical habitat for migrating waterfowl in spring. Thousands of Tundra and Trumpeter swans, along



Swans, M'Clintock Bay, Marsh Lake

with thousands of ducks and geese, stop here in April and May to rest and feed on their journey north to their nesting grounds. The numbers of birds in the bay attract many predators. Gray wolves and coyotes sometimes hunt along the ice shelves; Bald Eagles fish for Northern Pike or hunt ducks in the bay. Swan Haven, a staffed interpretation centre, overlooks the bay and is open during April. An annual bird festival, *Celebration of Swans*, heralds the return of both the swans and of spring. The centre is closed during the summer but a deck, complete with interpretive panels, still offers a good view of the bay.



13 Yukon River Bridge

km 1392.8 (mi. 865.5, historic mi. 897)

A large viewing deck overlooks the beginning of the Yukon River, locally known as Lewes River Marsh. Panels interpret the history and nature in the area. Have a view of the area using the binoculars provided. For an easy, one-day, 12 km (7.5 mi.) canoe adventure, put in at the boat launch at the M'Clintock River bridge (km 1393, mi. 870.6) and paddle across M'Clintock Bay northwest to Lewes River Marsh. Pick up a free copy of a guide to birding on the upper Yukon River. Waterfowl such as Northern Pintail, Canvasback, American Wigeon and Common Merganser use this area for their summer moult. American Kestrels and Bald Eagles nest on the banks of the marsh. Look for beaver lodges tucked away in sloughs. Sometimes, mule deer are seen feeding on the south-facing slopes.

Junction with the South Klondike Highway, Highway #2 (Carcross Road) *km 1404.4 (mi. 872.7, historic mi. 905), see page 26*

WHITEHORSE

To learn more about the wildlife viewing opportunities in the Whitehorse area, pick up a copy of *Whitehorse Trail Map: Explore the Wilderness City* and the free *Wildlife in Whitehorse: A Guide to Our Natural Areas.*

14 Wolf Creek Campground

km 1408.2 (mi. 875, historic mi. 906)

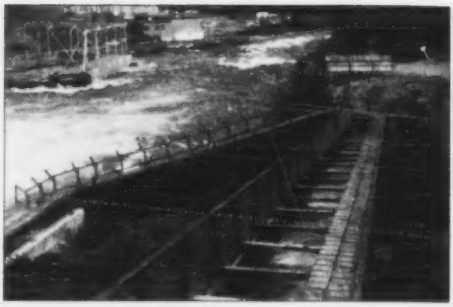
The 2 km (1.2 mi.) Yukon River Vista loop trail winds through boreal forest to an overlook of the Yukon River and returns following Wolf Creek. The forest along Wolf Creek has survived forest fires and the woodcutting that has occurred throughout most of the Whitehorse area. Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, Fox Sparrow and Gray Jay are only a few of the species that can be seen. Watch for tracks of snowshoe hare, lynx, coyote and beaver. An interpretive trail map is available at the beginning of the trail. Chinook salmon spawn in the creek in the autumn. Interpretive panels at the campground entrance describe their amazing migration. A fish ladder assists fish movement under the Alaska Highway.

15 Miles Canyon *km 1416.2 (mi. 880)*

800 m (0.5 mi.) down the Miles Canyon Road, turn right and continue to the parking lot. From here, a short trail takes you to a footbridge crossing the Yukon River. Violet-green, Cliff and Bank swallows' nest here along with Belted Kingfishers. Townsend's Solitaires, least chipmunks and arctic ground squirrels live on south-facing slopes that also abound with unusual plants including the creeping juniper. Small pockets of remnant prairie remain from a time, thousands of years ago, when the climate was much warmer than it is today. Across the river are the Chadburn Lake Recreation Area trails. You can also access this system of trails from the Chadburn Lake Road. Follow directions given in site 18 on the next page.

Gray Jay

16 Whitehorse Rapids and Fish Ladder



Fish ladder in Whitehorse

The Southern Tutchone name for Whitehorse Rapids is Kwanlin. Traditional fish camps were set up in this area before the settlement of the City of Whitehorse. From downtown Whitehorse, follow Second Avenue across the Robert Campbell Bridge over the Yukon River. The road becomes Lewes Boulevard. Continue on this road until the road forks at Nisutlin Drive. Turn right and follow Nisutlin Drive to the end. The fish ladder operates from mid-July to early September during the salmon-spawning season. The Yukon Energy Corporation and the Yukon Fish and Game Association maintain a free interpretive centre at the world's longest wooden fish ladder. From here, there are two options for self-guided interpreted walks. The paved millennium trail leads you along the Yukon River's edge to the Robert Campbell Bridge (4 km return). Or you can climb the grassy south-facing slope in front of the fish ladder for a panoramic view of Schwatka Lake and the surrounding mountains..

17 Hidden Lakes

Follow the directions to the Whitehorse Rapids and Fish Ladder. Just before the fish ladder, turn left onto the Chadburn Lake Road. Drive 1.7 km (1 mi.) along the Chadburn Lake Road and turn left onto a gravel road. This series of small lakes offers excellent opportunities to see beaver and waterbirds. In the evening, watch over the lake carefully for little brown bats.

18 Chadburn Lake Recreation Area

The Chadburn Lake Road is a 6 km (4 mi.) gravel road leading to several small lakes, with trails, picnic sites and boat launches before ending at Chadburn Lake. A recreation map of the area, produced by the Yukon Orienteering Association, is available locally. Several marked and easy to follow trails wind through the boreal forest. You can hear and see many bird species during early morning or early evening walks. Yellow Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Northern Waterthrush and Swainson's Thrush are only a few species that nest in the area. From the trails, you can see snowshoe hare, red squirrel and least chipmunk. On summer evenings, look for little brown bats.

Bat *Thomas Jung*

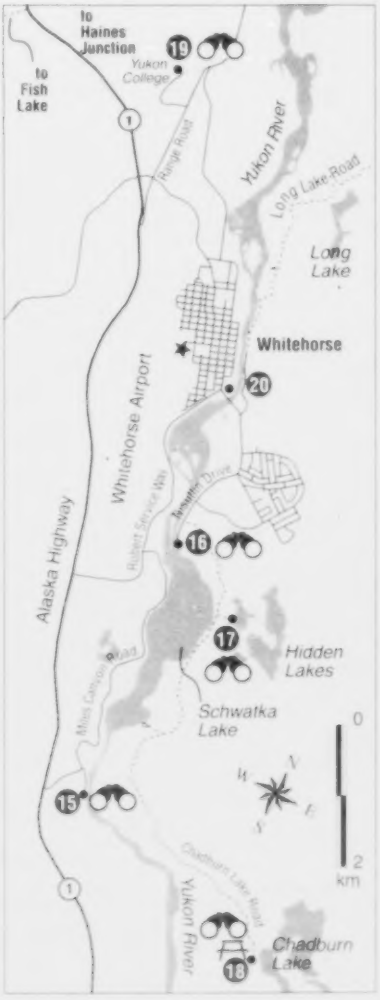
19 Yukon College Boreal Worlds Trail

Hidden behind Yukon College is the Boreal Worlds Trail. The trail starts at the end of the student parking lot. A large trailhead panel marks its beginning. You can journey through an aspen grove to the shores of a beaver pond and follow a walk through pine forest with dense lichen patches. This area, with its variety of habitats, is home to many animals including beaver, muskrat, snowshoe hare, and red squirrel, as well as Rusty Blackbird and Common Yellowthroat. An interpretive trail map, available free at the college bookstore, provides a wealth of information about the area's habitats.

20 Backcountry wildlife viewing: Yukon River

The Yukon River is a well travelled canoe route. You can access the river from Rotary Peace Park in Whitehorse. From Whitehorse to Dawson, a distance of about 750 km (467 mi.), can take from 14 to 21 days to travel. Shorter trips can also be planned. The Yukon River offers a great wildlife appreciation and viewing paddle for any canoe enthusiast. Moose often come to the river to feed. Watch for black bears feeding on grasses and berries on south-facing slopes or Bald Eagles nesting on top of trees along the banks. Look at the cliffs north of Minto Landing, where Peregrine Falcons nest.

Bald Eagle



21 McIntyre Marsh

km 1428.3 (mi. 887.3)

Tree Swallow

Travel north on the Alaska Highway to the Fish Lake Road turnoff on the left side. The road will pass a large wetland area and a small lake, both on the left side. After 3.4 km (2 mi.), you will arrive at this rich shallow wetland. Typical of wetlands created by damming, McIntyre Marsh is filled with standing dead trees. The dead trees provide nest sites for cavity nesting birds such as Tree Swallows, Boreal Chickadees and Barrow's Goldeneye. Water loving plants like sedge and willow grow at the water's edge, providing cover for the many birds and mammals that live and feed in the wetland. Otters, beavers and muskrats can often be seen here. Coyotes and foxes come to the wetland to drink and hunt. This is one of the very few wetlands in Yukon that does not freeze over in the winter, making it an important spring stopover for birds. This is also a trailhead for the TransCanada Trail and a short signed loop trail skirting another wetland hidden in the boreal forest.

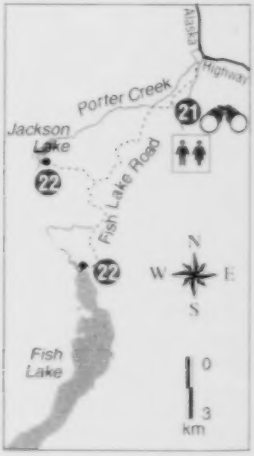
22 Fish and Jackson lakes

km 1428 (mi. 887.3)

Continue along the Fish Lake Road as it climbs through a sub-alpine area where ptarmigan are sometimes seen. The area has many biking and hiking trails and is an easy way to explore alpine areas. American Golden Plover, Gyrfalcon and other alpine species can sometimes be found nesting in this area. At km 15 you will reach Fish Lake. This is a popular fishing destination, but beware of strong winds.

Junction with the North Klondike Highway, Highway #2 (Mayo Road)

km 1437 (mi. 898), see page 28



23 Takhini Salt Flats

km 1468 (mi. 912.2)

Located one km (0.6 mi.) east of the Takhini River Bridge, rare plants are the focus of this undeveloped, unusual site. Underground springs bring salts to the surface; permafrost stops these salts from being washed deeper into the soil. As the salts accumulate on the surface, salt-loving plants thrive. The red-coloured sea asparagus, that can easily be seen from the Alaska Highway in summer, is only found in one other Yukon location.

24 Elk viewing

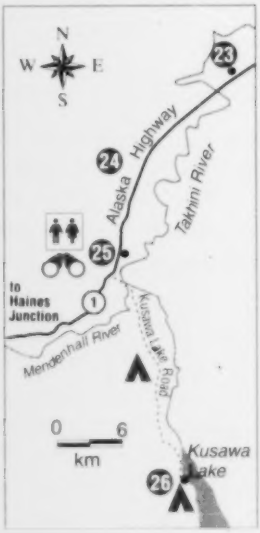
km 1468-1503 (mi. 912-934)

Look for elk between the Takhini River Bridge and the Mendenhall River. Slow down and scan the south-facing slopes and open aspen woodlands. Usually their cream-coloured rumps are seen first. Elk from Elk Island National Park were first introduced in 1951 and moved into this area following the 1958 burn. The population in 2003 was estimated to be between 100 and 120 animals.

25 Takhini Burn

km 1487 (mi. 924)

You will find a viewing platform at a large pullout on the south side of the highway. Four interpretive panels describe the wildlife found in this old burn area. The fire in 1958 has regenerated to aspen parkland. Elk and mule deer come to graze on grasses. Northern Hawk-Owls hunt for small mammals and birds during the day. The Upland Sandpiper is an unusual Yukon resident that breeds in the open grasslands of the burn and is often seen in this area.



Kusawa Lake Road

km 1489 (mi. 925)

A gravel road on the south side of the highway takes you to the Takhini River Campground 15 km (9 mi.) down the road, and the Kusawa Lake Campground and Recreation Site. A wetland about one km (0.6 mi.) from the highway intersection is an excellent site to see waterfowl and hear many different species of songbirds.

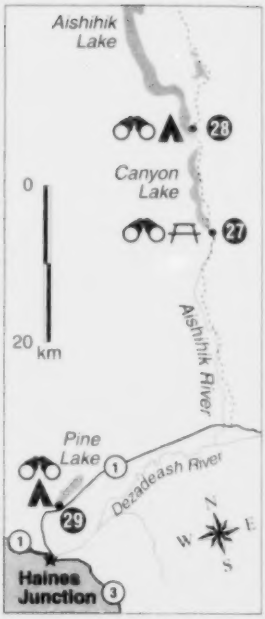
26 Kusawa Lake Campground

km 22.5 (mi. 14)
along the Kusawa Lake Road

Look for Dall sheep on the mountain across Kusawa Lake Road. To see them well, you need a spotting scope. For a better look at the sheep, an unmarked trail starts from the end of the campground and leads to the alpine. The view is worth the climb. Grizzly bears roam the alpine area in search of grasses, berries and arctic ground squirrels.

Coyote

End of new posts. A correction factor of 53.2 km (33 mi.) exists beyond this point.



Aishihik Road

km 1602 (mi. 995.5)

Turn north at the Otter Falls Cutoff. This gravel road winds past majestic mountain views and quiet wetlands. Two highlights are Otter Falls and Aishihik Lake.

27 Otter Falls

km 30 (mi. 18) along the Aishihik Road

On the left side of the Aishihik Road look for a small pullout with a history panel. Once pictured on Canada's five-dollar bill, the waterfall is easy to access by a short trail. Please note that there are periods of reduced water flow over the falls. Just 0.5 km (0.3 mi.) past the pullout for the falls, you will find Otter Falls Recreation Area. Located on the southern end of Canyon Lake (also called Otter Lake by local residents), this is a perfect place for a picnic. American Dippers can be seen feeding in the falls.

28 Aishihik Lake Campground

km 42 (mi. 26) along the Aishihik Road

Wood bison often come to the road north of the campground during the fall and move to the high country in the summer. These massive animals were re-introduced in 1986 and an interpretive sign describes their habitats. Watch carefully for bison herds inhabiting meadows along the road. Many small ponds dot the landscape, making it a perfect habitat for waterfowl, moose and wolves. Trumpeter Swans use the open water during spring migration.

Wood bison

The road past the campground provides adventurous travellers with a 1 to 2-day wilderness experience but is not recommended for large vehicles.

29 Pine Lake Campground

km 1628 (mi. 1012)

The short Lakeside Interpretive Trail winds through boreal forest from the beach to the campground. Panels along the trail interpret the lake's aquatic habitats, marl formation and forest dwellers. Gray Jays, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Boreal Chickadees and red squirrels all call this forest home. As with other campgrounds, black bears sometimes visit. A boat launch provides easy access to other viewing opportunities.

Junction with the Haines Highway, Highway #3 (Haines Road)
km 1635 (mi. 985, historic mi. 1015), see page 34

Kluane National Park Reserve Visitor Reception Centre
km 1635 (mi. 985, historic mi. 1015)

The centre can provide information to help you enjoy your stay in this area. You must register with Park Services here or at the Sheep Mountain Visitor Information Centre before going into some parts of the park. For your safety, the use of bear-resistant food canisters is recommended throughout the park and mandatory in some areas. These canisters can be obtained from the visitor centres. An excellent brochure on trails and routes in the park is also available at the centre. These trails and routes offer some of the Yukon's best opportunities to see Dall sheep, grizzly and black bears, gray wolves and moose.

Dall sheep *Alejandro Frid*

30 Backcountry wildlife viewing: Alsek River *km 1635 (mi. 1016)*

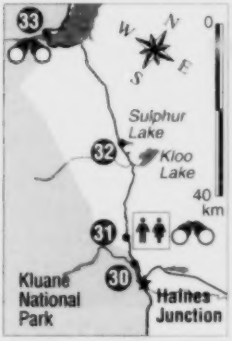
There are good opportunities to see Dall sheep, mountain goat and grizzly bear along the Alsek River. Weekend or 10-day guided raft trips are available from local companies. (Consult *Canada's Yukon, the Official Vacation Guide* for operator's names.)

31 Spruce Beetle Interpretive Trail *km 1653.2 (mi. 999)*

An easy 1.7 km (1 mi.) loop interpretive trail examines the life of the spruce beetle and its effects on the forests of the area. Allow 35 to 45 minutes to complete the walk.

32 Sulphur Lake *km 1671 (mi. 1006)*

A large pullout on the north side of the road lets you access this lake. Good canoeing opportunities are available. Thousands of waterbirds use the lake, mostly in late summer for moulting. Two Bald Eagle nests grace its shores and Trumpeter Swans are often seen. Try howling for the local wolf pack and see if they respond.



33 Tachäl Dhäl (Sheep Mountain) Visitor Information Centre

km 1707 (mi. 1029)

Stop here to learn about Kluane National Park's flora and fauna. Excellent interpretive programs and laser disc information videos are available when open mid-May to mid-September. Viewing telescopes are set up to look for Dall sheep on Tachäl Dhäl, formerly known as Sheep Mountain. This is sheep winter range so the best time to see them is late August to May. The face of Sheep Mountain has been designated as a special preservation zone. Check with the centre for designated hiking areas.

34 Congdon Creek Campground

km 1725 (historic mi. 1072)

An easy 500 m (0.3 mi.) trail follows the shoreline of Kluane Lake to an open meadow with a viewing deck. Panels interpret the natural features of the area. This is an important grizzly foraging area so tenting in August is not recommended.

35 Backcountry wildlife viewing: Kluane River

Begin at Burwash Landing and paddle about 10 km (6 mi.) on Kluane Lake to the mouth of Kluane River. Be aware of winds that can make the open water very dangerous during storms. For a full one-day trip, travel as far as Kluane Wilderness Village, about 40 km (25 mi.) from the starting point. This river has a class 2+ rapid. Do not miss the take-out as it is a LONG paddle to Dawson City. Swans stage in the area in April and May, along with hundreds of ducks, geese and raptors. Salmon spawn in Kluane River from late August to early November. Visit the Kluane Museum of Natural History in Burwash Landing for an introduction to local geology, wildlife and culture.

36 Duke Meadows

km 1769 (mi. 1067)

This unique natural meadow was formed on the flood plain of the Shär Ndü Chu' (Duke River). It contains unusual plant species and meadow nesting birds such as the Upland Sandpiper and Sharp-tailed Grouse. In April and May, huge flocks of waterfowl, including hundreds of Trumpeter Swans, stage at the outflow of Kluane Lake.

37 Kluane River overlook *km 1785 (mi. 1077)*

Locally known as Joe Jacquot's Lookout, this rest area has information panels and an observation platform overlooking the Kluane River. Interpretive panels describe the life cycle of the Chum Salmon that come to spawn in this river in August and September. Bald Eagles and grizzly bears come then to feast.

38 Pickhandle Lake *km 1864 (mi. 1125.7)*

A short gravel road takes you down to the shores of Pickhandle Lake. This attractive wetland complex is extensive. On their migration, many bird species follow the Shakwak Trench (a Chilkat name meaning mountain pass) to reach these important wetlands. Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Barrow's Goldeneye and Bufflehead nest and moult here in summer. A deck with interpretive panels invites you to discover pond life, muskrats, water birds and traditional use of this scenic lake.

39 Snag Junction Campground *km 1913 (historic mi. 1188)*

The area surrounding this campground is typical of the Klondike Plateau Ecoregion. Open stands of stunted black spruce are intermixed with paper birch. The land is underlain by permafrost and many of the hills are frozen core mounds. The numerous lakes in the area are "thermokarst," a phenomenon where circular lakes are created, surrounded by "drunken trees," as the permafrost melts and the ground caves in. This area was unglaciated and so has few deep valleys. The numerous lakes are home to waterfowl and interesting pond life. Look in the open areas for Northern Hawk Owls perched on the tops of trees.

40 Beaver Creek

km 1934 (historic mi. 1202)

The nature trail here includes panels that interpret the natural features of the region, its history, plants and animals. For those interested in the flora of the territory, the visitor centre has a book of dried Yukon wildflowers.

41 Swan Lake *km 1950 (mi. 1177)*

This lake, on the east side of the Alaska Highway, is home to a pair of nesting Trumpeter Swans. Large numbers of shorebirds and migratory waterfowl use this unusually rich lake as a stopover. Peregrine Falcons can sometimes be seen hunting shorebirds in the spring, while fox hunt muskrat along the shore. Look for owls perched on treetops in the open country of this area.

Drunken trees, Pickhandle Lake

SOUTH KLONDIKE HIGHWAY *Highway #2*

The Klondike Highway is divided into the South Klondike (Skagway to Alaska Highway) and North Klondike (Alaska Highway north of Whitehorse to Dawson City). Distances are measured from Skagway, Alaska.

1 B.C./Yukon border *km 80 (mi. 50)*

There is a pullout at the B.C./Yukon border, on the east side of the highway. Search the slopes of Montana Mountain to the northwest and Racine Mountain to the southwest for signs of mountain goats and Dall sheep that frequent these areas in the summer.

2 Bennett and Nares lakes *km 106 (mi. 66)*

Nares Lake is on the east side of the Klondike Highway and Bennett Lake is on the west side. Waterfowl such as Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail and American Wigeon stage on Nares Lake in the spring and fall. Being one of the few areas of open water in winter, it attracts many species. It is home to Arctic Grayling and Northern Pike and Whitefish. Lake Trout and salmon move through the area.

Junction with the Tagish Road, Highway #8

km 107 (mi. 66.5), see page 48

3 Carcross desert viewpoint *km 108 (mi. 67)*

Affectionately known as the world's smallest desert, the Carcross desert is a haven for amateur botanists. The wind blows sand from Bennett Lake forming sand dunes, and making them advance across the landscape, sometimes burying trees along the way. The active dunes are home to the Yukon lupine (*Lupinus kuschei*), distinguishable by its silvery appearance caused by hairs on the upper surface of the leaves. The grass-like Baikal sedge (*Carex sabulosa*) also grows in the loose sand. This Asian sedge is found in North America at only four places in southwest Yukon and two locations in Alaska. It is probably a remnant from a time when North America and Asia were joined through the Bering Land Bridge. Showy Jacob's-ladder, pasture sage, common juniper and kinnikinnick grow in the more stabilized or sheltered areas of the dunes.

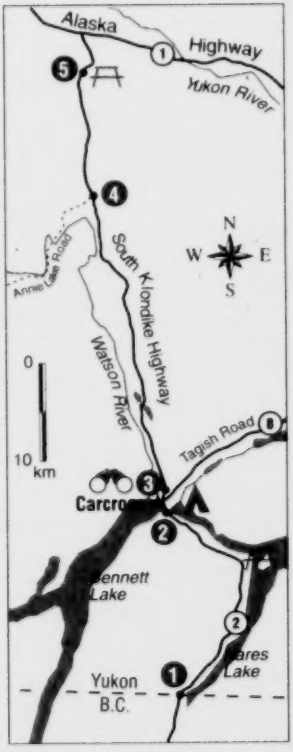
Yukon lupine

Carcross desert

4 Annie Lake Road

km 140 (mi. 88)

Annie Lake Road begins 17 km (11 mi.) south of the intersection of the Klondike and Alaska highways. After crossing the Wheaton River (the second bridge) look on the cliff-faces for Dall sheep. There are many hiking routes along old mining roads into the coastal mountains. Gyrfalcons, Golden Eagles, and Willow, Rock and White-tailed ptarmigan, along with many other alpine birds, can be seen. When crossing the Watson and Wheaton rivers, watch for Harlequin Ducks that nest on the edge of these fast-flowing streams.



5 Kookatsoon Lake Recreation Site

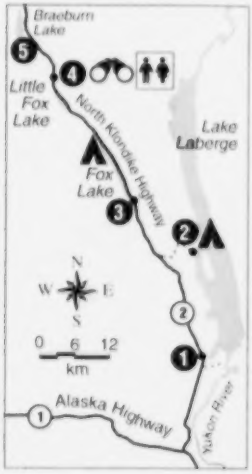
km 154 (mi. 96)

This shallow lake, a pleasant family swimming spot in summer, is home to nesting Bonaparte's Gulls. The shallow waters freeze to the bottom in the winter and so this is not a fishing lake.

Junction with the Alaska Highway, Highway #1

km 157 (mi. 99), see page 16

Distances are measured from Skagway, Alaska.



1 Shallow Bay, Lake Laberge *km 209 (mi. 130)*

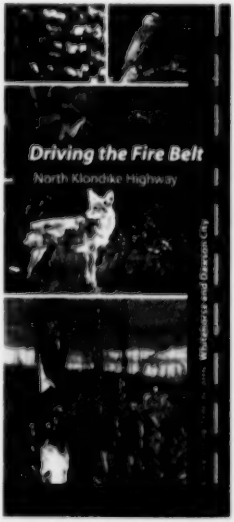
Land access to Shallow Bay is somewhat difficult. You will find a trail just north of the Shallow Bay road, on the east side of the Klondike Highway. In late April and May, this is one of the best sites for waterfowl viewing. Tundra and Trumpeter swans stage here by the thousands in spring and fall. It is also a hot spot for migrating shorebirds and songbirds. Watch for birds of prey like Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers that hunt in the open fields surrounding the bay.

2 Lake Laberge Campground *km 224.6 (mi. 139)*

The campground is located on a signed side road 2.9 km (1.7 mi.) east of the highway on the shores of Lake Laberge. Made famous by the Robert Service poem, "The Cremation of Sam McGee," this is the only place in Yukon where Double-crested Cormorants can be reliably seen. Loons and other open water birds are common. This is one of the first places in the Whitehorse area to see the prairie crocus bloom in spring (mid-April).

3 Fox Lake *km 239 (mi. 148)*

Waterfowl stop here on their spring migration. You can put a canoe in at the south end of the lake for a day of adventuring in the sheltered bay. Muskrats feed on the abundant aquatic vegetation and many muskrat push-ups can be seen dotting the frozen surface of the lake in winter and spring. You may be scolded by a Lesser Yellowlegs if you venture too close to its nest or its offspring.



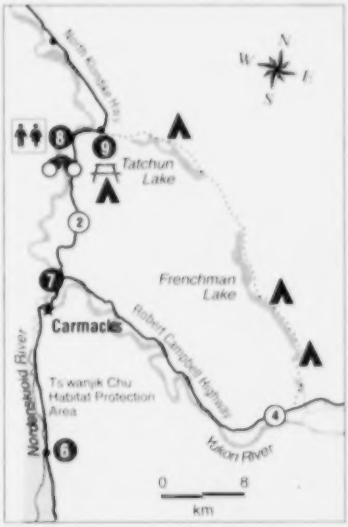
4 Fox Lake Burn *km 271.9 (mi. 167)*

Follow the 200 m (650 ft.) interpreted trail to the overlook and experience the importance of fire to the boreal forest ecosystem. Pick up your free guide to fires of the North Klondike Highway and watch for the signs.

5 Elk and bear viewing *km 273-340 (mi. 171-212)*

About 100 elk — a protected species in the Yukon — live in this area. The best time to see them is in winter and spring, when there are no

leaves on the trees. Listen for elk bugling in late summer and autumn. Drive slowly and look on the exposed south-facing slopes for their distinctive cream-coloured rumps. Grizzly bears are also commonly seen here in spring and summer, feeding on the roadside vegetation and, sometimes, on the elk.



6 Ts'wanjik Chu (Nordenskiold Wetlands) *km 320 (mi. 199)*

The picturesque wetlands seen from here to Carmacks on the west side of the highway are part of Ts'wanjik Chu. Waterfowl stage here during spring and fall migrations and nest in the more isolated areas of the river. Watch for breeding Trumpeter Swans, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup and Ruddy ducks. Beaver, muskrat and moose feast on the lush vegetation while mink and red fox hunt along the edges of the wetland. Listen for Soras and Red-winged Blackbirds singing in the sedges. These species are locally common in the Yukon, usually indicating very productive wetlands. This is a Special Management Area under the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation Final Land Claim Agreement and has been proposed as a Habitat Protection Area due to its rich biodiversity.

7 Tage-Cho-Hudan Interpretive Centre, Carmacks *km 358 (mi. 222.5)*

This cultural centre showcases the traditional lifestyles of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation. Visit a moose skin house or a brush house; walk through a mammoth snare and imagine how life might have been.

Junction with the Robert Campbell Highway, Highway #4

km 358 (mi. 222.5), see page 36

8 Five Finger Rapids Recreation Site *km 380 (mi. 237)*

Five Finger Rapids was a dangerous place on the river during the Klondike gold rush and river travel eras. There is a large pullout on the west side of the highway. A staircase, perhaps the Yukon's longest, starts the 45-minute (return) walk down the 850 m (0.5 mi.) trail that ends at a large viewing platform looking over the rapids. The south-facing slope is a perfect habitat for prairie crocus, kinnikinnick, common juniper and sage, and is home to White-crowned and American Tree sparrows. This is the edge of Beringia (the area that remained ice free when the North American continent was joined to Asia) and so open slopes like these contain many unique species of plants and insects. Interpretive panels discuss historic and natural themes.

9 Tatchun/Frenchman Road *km 383.4 (mi. 240)*

A gravel road leads you to campgrounds at Tatchun Lake at km 8.4 (mi. 5.2), Nunatuk at km 33.3 (mi. 20.7) and Frenchman Lake at km 41.7 (mi. 25.9). All three campgrounds are on beautiful, clear lakes that offer great opportunities for pleasant canoe outings. The road is 46.2 km (28 mi.) long and offers some of the best chances to view mule deer. The road joins the Robert Campbell Highway about 41 km (25 mi.) from the Klondike Highway intersection.

10 Lhútsäw Wetlands *km 442 (mi. 276)*

Formerly known as Von Wilczek Lakes and locally known as Jackfish Lake, this is an important wetland complex for duck staging, nesting and moulting. It has been identified as a Special Management Area under the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement and, when the management plan is completed, will be designated as a Habitat Protection Area.

American Coot *C. Eckert*

11 Tthi Ndu Mun *km 449 (mi. 281)*

Formerly known as Rock Island Lake, this lake is just beyond the northern limits of a 1995 forest fire. Water lilies and other seldom-seen aquatic wildflowers bloom in the shallow areas of the lake. American Coots, rarely seen in Yukon, along with geese and ducks, nest here. Sandhill Cranes are often seen flying overhead in spring and fall.

12 Meadow Lake *km 458 (mi. 286)*

This shallow lake is one of the "athalassic," or salty lakes of inland origin found in the area. Notice the white, crusty layer on the old stumps sticking out of the mud along the lakeshore. Salts accumulate over time after naturally weathering out of the rocks. Much saltier lakes may be found nearby. Such lakes are home to

Moose

salt-loving plants known as "halophyles." Look for chicken-like American Coots. This is their most northerly known nesting site. Large numbers of Horned Grebes make Meadow Lake their home in summer.

13 Drunken Forest *km 510 (mi. 317)*

This straight section of highway is surrounded by black spruce and paper birch that grow on poorly drained soil. Permafrost develops in these soils. As the permafrost melts, the trees lean in different directions appearing "drunken." This same permafrost causes frost heaves in the highway.

Back-country wildlife viewing: Ddhaw Ghro Special Management Area

Ddhaw Ghro is the Northern Tutchone name for the area also known as McArthur Wildlife Sanctuary. Although not accessible by road, the refuge is a great place for outdoor enthusiasts. Grey Hunter Peak and surrounding hillsides support many species of wildlife, including Fannin sheep. Some private land holdings exist within the protected area. Please contact the Selkirk First Nation for more information. If you are an intrepid adventurer, inquire about retaining the services of a guide to travel into the area.

14 Ethel Lake Campground *km 523.6 (mi. 327)*

Ethel Lake Campground is 24 km (14.5 mi.) down this winding, narrow road. The lake provides fishing opportunities for Lake Trout and Northern Pike. The road passes through some high elevations where subalpine fir can be seen. This is a rich area for moose.

Junction with the Silver Trail Highway, Highway #11

km 531 (mi. 331), see page 50

15 Moose Creek Campground

km 559.3 (mi. 350)

A 2.5 km (1.5 mi.) interpreted nature trail to the Stewart River takes you into the boreal forest along Moose Creek. Allow one hour to complete this loop trail. Note the change of habitat from dry white spruce forest to floodplain willow. Listen for such floodplain residents as the Northern Waterthrush, Wilson's Warbler and Common Yellowthroat. They feast on mosquitoes that hatch from the areas' many small ponds. The return trail takes you along a dry ridge. Fishing opportunities are found along Moose Creek and at Stewart River.

16 Gravel Lake

km 622 (mi. 389)

This important wetland on the Tintina Trench is a major travel corridor for migratory birds in spring and fall. Just north of the highway pullout, a dirt road goes down to the lakeshore. Waterfowl nest here in early summer, joined by rafts of ducks in late summer. Because of its location on the trench, unusual birds are sometimes seen here, including Ruddy Duck and Black Scoter. Yellow water lily blooms carpet the lake surface in July. Sharp-tailed Grouse are commonly seen in the open aspen woodlands.

17 Tintina Trench viewpoint

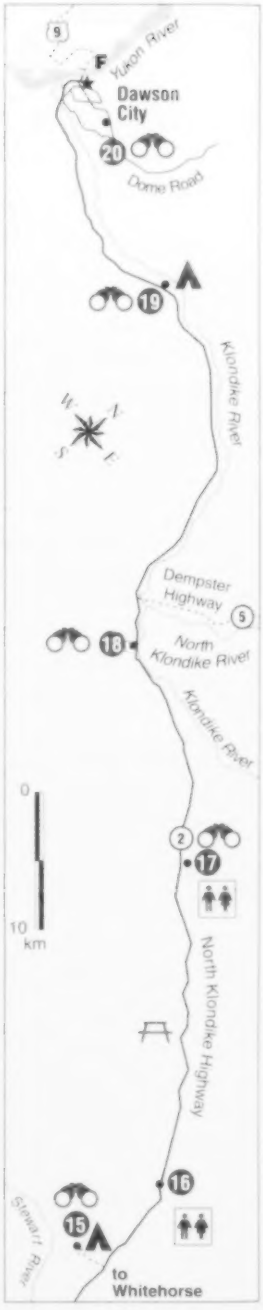
km 655 (mi. 409)

A large rest area on the north side of the road has a commanding view of the Tintina Trench and the Klondike River. The Tintina Trench is the largest geological fault in North America, and is one of two major travel corridors for migratory birds in the Yukon. (The other is the Shakwak Trench; see page 23 and map opposite page 1.)

18 Klondike River

km 668 (mi. 418)

A large pullout on the east side has an interpretive sign about the history of salmon in the Klondike River and their importance to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation.



Junction with the Dempster Highway, Highway #5

km 675 (mi. 422), see page 38

19 Klondike River Campground

km 697 (mi. 436)

Klondike River Campground trail

A 1.7 km (1 mi.) interpreted nature trail loop takes you to the Klondike River. It offers a close look at an unspoiled section of the forest and river. In this stand of giant white spruce and riverside willows you get a glimpse of a typical forest in this area prior to the 1898 gold rush. A wide variety of plants grow along the trail. Watch for Labrador tea, highbush cranberry, prickly rose, arctic bearberry and horsetails.

20 Crocus Bluff Trail *km 713 (mi. 446)*

A 500 m (0.3 mi.) trail leads you to a view of the confluence of the Klondike and the Yukon rivers. Lowbush cranberry, feathermoss, lichens, , arctic bearberry, and arctic bluebell are only a few of the plant species that thrive on the rich black earth under the white spruce/paper birch forest of the Klondike Valley. Interpretive panels discuss nature and history themes. The trailhead is found near the cemetery on the Dome Road, off the end of King Street in Dawson City.

DAWSON CITY *km 715 (mi. 447)*

Junction via ferry to the Top of the World Highway, Highway #9

see page 49

Prairie crocus

HAINES ROAD

Highway #3

Distances are measured from Haines, Alaska. While travelling the Haines Road, watch for grizzly bears and black bears as this is prime bear habitat. Approaching the Haines summit, watch for Willow Ptarmigan and you may even spot their main predator, the Gyrfalcon.

1 Tatshenshini River viewpoint *km 162 (mi. 101)*

A pullout on the west side of the road overlooks the beautiful Tatshenshini River and the Alsek mountain range.

2 Shäwshe *km 169 (mi. 105)*

Also known as Dalton Post, this is a well-known site for salmon fishing in the summer and fall. The Klukshu River flows into the Tatshenshini River upstream from the historic site of the Shäwshe village. This river system hosts seasonal runs of Chinook, Sockeye and Coho salmon. Chinook are most visible in July, Sockeye from August to October, and Coho in late September and October. In fall, grizzly bears come to feast on this bounty from the sea, so be alert to their presence.

3 Klukshu Wetland overlook

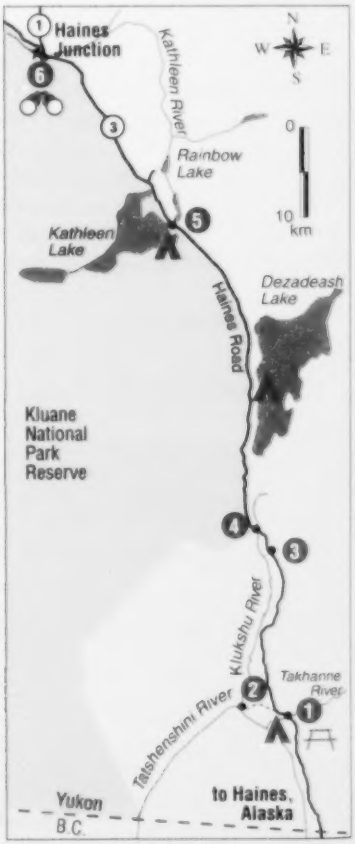
km 173 (mi. 107)

A large pullout on the west side of the road overlooks two small wetlands. A dozen or so Trumpeter Swans regularly spend the summer here. Most of these are thought to be birds that have not mated or whose attempt to nest failed. A few kilometres further north along the highway you will pass a beautiful marsh on the west side of the road. A pair of Trumpeter Swans often nest and raise a family here.

4 Klukshu River

km 181.6 (mi. 110.8)

This area is frequented by grizzly bears. A stop here and a careful scan of the area may reveal one of these bruins.



5 **Kathleen River bridge** *km 221 (mi. 136)*

A pullout on the east side of the road provides access to Kathleen River. From here, you can canoe into Lower Kathleen and Rainbow lakes. This is an easy paddle that requires a half-day to complete. Canoeing below Rainbow Lake requires whitewater experience. Harlequin Ducks, Northern Pintail and American Wigeon are only a few of the waterfowl species that live in this area. Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Wood-Pewee and Common Yellowthroat are also present. You can also paddle to the southwest side of Rainbow Lake. To come out, look for a cabin to the west of Rainbow Lake. You will find an old dock to the south of the cabin. A rough dirt road off the Haines Road about 6 km (4 mi.) north of the bridge goes down towards the lake. You will need to portage your canoe nearly 1 km (0.6 mi.) as the road becomes impassable to vehicles as it approaches the lake.

Grizzly bear

6 **Dezadeash Trail** *km 245 (mi. 151)*

A 3.5 km (2.2 mi.) trail takes you along the river's edge, through wetland and into the forest. This easy walk may reveal many species, from moose to ducks. You will need about two hours to walk the trail. This is a good location for winter wildlife viewing as the open water that can be found attracts a variety of wildlife. The parking lot and trailhead are on the Haines Highway #3, about 500 m (0.3 mi.) south of the intersection with the Alaska Highway. Look for the parking lot just north of the Dezadeash River, on the west side of the road.

Junction with the Alaska Highway, Highway #1, at Haines Junction

km 246 (mi. 153), see page 23

ROBERT CAMPBELL HIGHWAY

Highway #4

Distances are measured from Watson Lake. The Robert Campbell Highway is mainly gravel and is not as frequently travelled as other Yukon roads. There are few amenities but some of the richest wildlife areas in the territory are along this road. Keep a sharp eye out for arctic ground squirrels and grizzly bears feeding on purple-flowered sweet-vetch *(Hedysarum boreale)* or other members of the pea family along the shoulders of the road. The highest concentration of moose and wolves in the Yukon is found in this area. *There are no services between Watson Lake and Ross River (363 km/225 mi.).*

1 Watson Lake *km 8 (mi. 5)*

Turn north on the Robert Campbell Highway from the Alaska Highway. Common Loons, Ospreys and Bald Eagles nest on the shores of the lake here. The wetlands in this region are particularly rich.

2 Tom Creek Wetland *km 27 (mi. 17)*

A 25 m long (80 ft.) gravel road on the east side of the highway ends at a scenic wetland where Rusty Blackbirds, Common Yellowthroats, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Violet-green Swallows and other songbirds are common.

3 Cabin Creek Wetland *km 37 (mi. 23)*

Park at a large pullout and walk the 30 m (100 ft.) road on the east side of the highway, down to the water's edge. There is not enough room to turn your vehicle around at the end of the road. The large lake is alive with the sounds of songbirds. Many species of ducks and Red-necked Grebes nest in this wetland. Yellow water lilies cover the surface of the water in July. In the early hours of the morning, this is the perfect place to sit and gaze across the lake at passing moose.

4 Frances Lake Campground *km 177 (mi. 110)*

The Kaska name for the lake is Tu Cho meaning "big water." Look for rafts of scoters, scaups and mergansers on this large scenic lake.

5 Finlayson Lake *km 240 (mi. 149)*

There is a large pullout on the north side of the road with information panels that interpret the Finlayson Caribou Herd and the wildlife recovery program.

Junction with the South Canol Road, Highway #6
km 355 (mi. 221), see page 46

Junction with the Ross River Road *km 363 (mi. 225.5)*

6 **Lapie River Campground**
km 376 (mi. 234)

A trail runs along the canyon with views of the river as it is forced through this deep cleft. Watch the canyon walls for cliff nesting birds, particularly Common Ravens.

Common Raven

Town of Faro, Mitchell Road intersection *km 415 (mi. 258)*

This 10 km (6 mi.) road takes you into the Town of Faro. Several hiking trails lead you to Mount Mye, northeast of town. The unpaved Blind Creek Road takes you to several viewing sites surrounding Sheep Mountain and Blind Creek. From mid-September to June, Fannin sheep come down from the mountain to gnaw on the mineral lick. Chinook Salmon spawn in Blind Creek in August.

FARO VIEWING SITES

7 **Johnson Lake Campground** *3.7 km (2.3 mi.) up Mitchell Road*

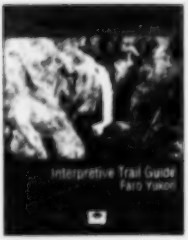
A variety of water birds can be found around this marshy lake. Pick up *A Birder's Checklist of the Faro & Ross River Region* for more information.

8 **Campbell Region Interpretive Centre, downtown Faro (Open May to September)**

This is the place to stop if you are looking for information about the region's history and its highlights. The interpretive staff can help you plan your visit. Take a walk back through time to the days of the mammoths. Explore how the Tintina Trench has influenced the movements of humans and wildlife. Pick-up a copy of the guide to *Wildlife Viewing in Faro*.

9 **Van Gorder Falls Trail, downtown Faro**

This trail is a wonderful way to spend about two hours on an easy 1.5 km (1 mi.) trail



that winds its way through the forest, right at the edge of town. Starting at the John Connolly RV Park, the trail crosses Van Gorder Creek, and then climbs up, ending at a viewing deck overlooking the falls. Keep your eyes open as sheep may be seen at this important sheep resting spot. Pick up the trail pamphlet from the Interpretive Centre to learn more about trailside flora and fauna.

10 Faro Arboretum *10.5 km (5.3 mi.) up Mitchell Road*

Less than a kilometre north of the turnoff to the Town of Faro, this site showcases native plants of the region. Interpretive panels about local flora and fauna, and viewing decks, sound posts and resting benches are all found here. Follow the 1.2 km (0.7 mi.) loop trail from the kiosk to the viewing deck, and down to the west arm of Van Gorder Creek.

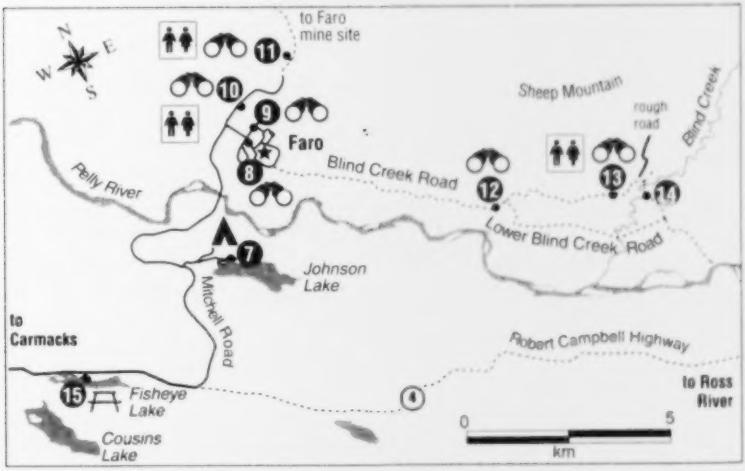
11 Fingers Site *12.5 km (7.5 mi.) up Mitchell Road*

A creek cuts a deep trench along the west side of the road 2.5 km (1.5 mi.) north of town. A short walk takes you to a viewing platform and interpretive site for a look at the sheep that inhabit the cliffs along the creek. Here you may also see a Common Raven's nest and listen to bird calls on sound posts. In early May and at the end of August, flocks of Sandhill Cranes pass overhead during their migration along the Tintina Trench.

12 Sheep Mountain Viewing Platform

5.5 km (3.5 mi.) along the Blind Creek Road

Park at the pull-off for a look at Sheep Mountain. In the fall and winter, Fannin rams are often seen on the flanks of Sheep Mountain, northwest of the ewes and lambs. A short path leads to the viewing platform from the road. **Warning: The ram viewing platform is situated on a steep S-curve on the road. Watch for oncoming traffic!**



13 Mount Mye Sheep Centre *7.5 km (4.6 mi.) along the Blind Creek Road*

Stay left on the Blind Creek Road at the fork and you will end up at a cabin at the foot of Sheep Mountain. From this ideal vantage point, sheep are visible along the mountainside. The majority of the population use this area through the fall, winter, and spring, moving into the alpine areas of Mt. Mye in June. On cold days bring some firewood for the wood stove and enjoy the views from the comfort of the cabin.

Warning: The Lower Road to Blind Creek is a rough 2-wheel drive gravel road. This road is not recommended for long vehicles such as motorhomes.

14 Sheep Mineral Lick *11.5 km (7.5 mi.) along the Blind Creek Road*

At km 5.5 (3.5 mi.) of the Blind Creek Road, turn right onto the Lower Blind Creek Road and at the end of that road, turn left on the old mine road. Stop in the parking spot on the left. From October to June, Fannin sheep are often visible along the top edge of the bluff where they lick minerals from the exposed soil. Wind scours this area and keeps it snow-free during the winter. Follow the trail along the bottom of the bluff from the parking area for a pleasant walk through the valley bottom vegetation.

Fannin Ram *Frank Nice*

15 Fisheye Lake *km 415 (mi. 249)*

This day-use area provides a boat ramp and picnic facilites. Watch for diving ducks and loons. Fishing is good as this lake is stocked with Rainbow Trout and Kokanee (a landlocked Sockeye Salmon).

16 Little Salmon Lake Campground *km 502 (mi. 312)*

Listen here for the haunting call of the Common Loon. The large lake takes a long time to freeze in the winter and thaw again in the summer, creating local weather conditions.

Junction with the Tatchun/Frenchman Road

km 543 (mi. 339), see site #9, page 30

Junction with the Klondike Highway, Highway #2

km 582 (mi. 364), see page 26

Distances are measured from the junction with the Klondike Highway.

This highway provides one of North America's easiest vehicle access routes into the Arctic. Many arctic species that commonly summer and winter along the Dempster may not be found on any other Yukon highway.

1 Klondike Highway/Dempster Highway intersection *km 0.2 (mi. 0.1)*

A pullout on the east side of the road has an interpretive kiosk with historic and wildlife information on the Dempster Highway.

Tombstone Territorial Park *km 49 (mi. 30)*

This point marks the southern boundary of the newly established Tombstone Territorial Park. For the next 70 km (42 mi.), you will be travelling through the park. Covering 2,164 km^2, this unspoiled wilderness has been set aside for protection under the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Land Claim.

2 Dempster Highway Interpretive Centre *km 71.5 (mi. 44.4)*

This centre has displays providing information on the natural history of the Dempster Highway region and the new Tombstone Territorial Park. The centre is open from mid-June to mid-September, seven days a week, including holidays. Campfire talks and nature walks are offered regularly. For a schedule of events, check the bulletin board in front of the centre. American Kestrel, Northern Hawk Owl, Wilson's Warbler and Slate-coloured Junco are seen regularly in the campground. A 500 m (0.3 mi.) self-guided interpretive trail introduces you to the tundra.

3 North Fork Pass Overlook *km 74 (mi. 46)*

This pullout is an excellent place to view the surrounding valley. The North Fork of the Klondike River can be seen below, flowing from Monolith and Tombstone mountains in the distance. The Northern Wheatear nests in the cliffs nearby. This unusual species nests in northern and western Alaska and Yukon but winters in North Africa and Southeast Asia.

Dempster Highway Interpretive Centre

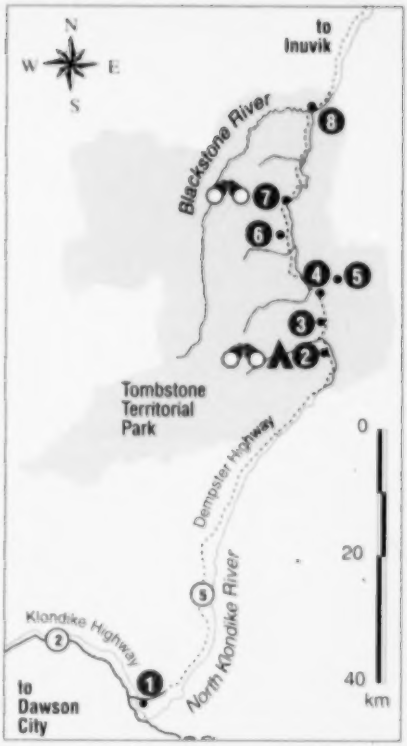
4 North Fork Pass Summit *km 78.5 (mi. 49)*

This is the highest point on the Dempster Highway (1,289 m or 4,229 ft.). Here, you are crossing the Continental Divide. The land you see to the north drains via the Blackstone, Ogilvie, Peel and Mackenzie rivers to the Beaufort Sea; to the south, the Klondike and Yukon rivers drain to the Pacific Ocean. You are leaving the boreal forest of the south and entering unglaciated arctic tundra.

5 Angelcomb Peak

km 81.5 (mi. 51)

The mountain to the east is Angelcomb Peak, also known locally as Sheep Mountain. It is an important Dall sheep lambing area in May and June. Golden Eagles sometimes nest on the cliffs. A trail up Angelcomb Peak starts at the gravel pit, locally known as Honeymoon Pit, after a famous Yukon ornithologist who spent his honeymoon there. During the summer, hoary marmots and collared pika are seen in the rock piles of the slopes. Do not disturb the sheep.



6 Blackstone Uplands

km 87-132 (mi. 54-82)

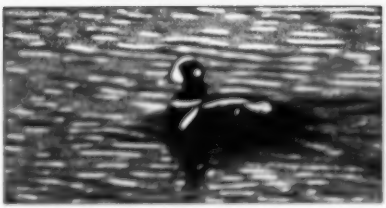
For the bird watcher, this is the richest and most interesting area of the highway. Here, you first encounter the arctic species for which the highway is famous — Red-throated Loons, Long-tailed Ducks, Willow Ptarmigan, American Golden Plovers, Long-tailed Jaegers, Common and Hoary redpolls, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings. Golden Eagles and Short-eared Owls are also common. The long-billed Whimbrel is often seen on the tundra to the east. Red foxes and woodland caribou may be encountered in the summer.

Long-tailed Ducks

Willow Ptarmigan, Dempster Highway

7 Two Moose Lake

km 102 (mi. 63.4)



Harlequin Duck, Blackstone River

A large pullout and deck on the west side of the road overlooks Two Moose Lake. The lake is appropriately named, as moose are often seen here feeding on the aquatic vegetation. American Wigeon often nest on the shores of the lake and Gray-cheeked Thrush and American Pipit make their home in the surrounding willows. Watch for Harlequin Ducks, American Coots and Red-necked Phalaropes feeding in the open water.

8 Chapman Lake

km 116 (mi. 72.1)

Common Loons often nest on the island in this lake. This is the largest lake you will come across on your travels up the Dempster Highway. The Porcupine Caribou Herd commonly winters in this area and can be seen from October to April. In the spring, from May to June, wolves and grizzly bears are often seen scavenging the remains of winter caribou mortalities from here to the Richardson Mountains.

9 Windy Pass

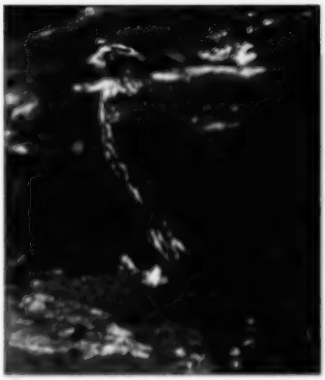
km 154 (mi. 96)

Windy Pass (at 1060 m or 3460 ft.) divides the drainages of the Blackstone River and Engineer Creek. The lack of vegetation causes flash flooding to the north of the pass, as recent highway work will show. This area is rich in Beringian endemic plants (restricted to a particular region) and butterflies. This is also a good location to see Wandering Tattlers, a shorebird that inhabits fast-flowing mountain streams. Caribou migration trails are visible on the bald, gray mountain directly ahead. For thousands of years, the Porcupine Caribou Herd have wintered in this area.

Porcupine Caribou Herd

10 **Gyrfalcon nest** *km 158 (mi. 98.2)*

Look across the road at the cliffs. Bird guano or whitewash covers the face of a ledge. This is the home of a Gyrfalcon family. These birds are especially active during the early hours of the morning and evening. The chicks call at the approach of the parents who bring a meal. Please do not disturb these birds; they are highly sensitive to human intrusion and are protected by Canadian laws.



Gyrfalcon — *Rick Kline, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology*

11 **Red Creek and Sulpher Springs** *km 168 (mi. 104)*

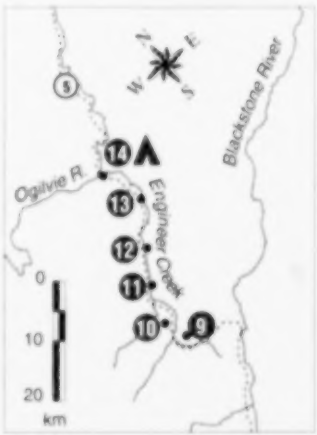
The reddish-brown stains of the rocks and river bed of Engineer Creek come from dissolved minerals. The water of Red Creek is high in calcium, magnesium, bicarbonate, sulfate, hydrogen sulfide, sodium and chlorine. The sulfur smell comes from several warm springs that discharge hydrogen sulfide.

12 **Sheep lick and trails** *km 178 (mi. 111)*

Dall sheep are attracted to this area, especially in June. They come down the face of the rock slopes and head to the creek's shore to eat salt-enriched mud. The regularly used trails can be seen along the hillside. If you see a sheep at the lick or on the side of the hill, please remain in your vehicle, turn off the motor and enjoy the animals from a distance.

13 **Engineer Creek sheep lick** *km 184 (mi 114)*

The sheep lick extends for about 2 km (1.2 mi) along Engineer Creek, the water of which contains a heavy load of minerals. These licks are extremely important to maintain the animals' health. It is thought that sheep frequent mineral licks to restore calcium and magnesium balances in their bodies.



14 **Engineer Creek Campground** *km 194 (mi 120.5)*

On the bluffs of Sapper Hill (Divii Ddhaa) Peregrine Falcons and Golden Eagles may be seen. The cliffs along the valley of the Ogilvie River are important for nesting Peregrine Falcons and Gyrfalcons. Please avoid disturbing them.

15 Ogilvie Ridge/Gwazhal Niijik *km 259 (mi. 161)*

This viewpoint overlooks the Ogilvie/Peel watershed, another point on the Continental Divide. The area to the west drains via the Eagle, Porcupine and Yukon rivers to the Pacific; to the east, the rivers drain to the Mackenzie River and Beaufort Sea, part of the Arctic Ocean. A group of panels at this site interpret the geological and cultural evolution of the region.

The short, contorted spruce trees seen from the viewpoint are krummholtz (German for crooked wood). The many small trees found in a clump are only one tree; cloned or replicated many times. This is a feature of the arctic tundra. Winter winds constantly scour the trees with ice crystals. The abrasion marks on the trees are noticeable. The portion of the tree above the snowline is thin and damaged while the branches below the snow have denser needles.

Eagle Plains Hotel *km 369 (mi. 229)*

16 Arctic Circle *km 406 (mi. 252)*

66°33' latitude north marks the land of the midnight sun. Interpretive panels explain this phenomenon in further detail. In spring, watch for grizzly bears on the tundra. During summer, Short-eared Owls with their butterfly-like wingbeats can often be seen hunting in the open tundra. Look for Smith's Longspurs on the bare stretches of tundra north of the Arctic Circle. In fall and winter, this area abounds with the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

17 Rock River Campground *km 447 (mi. 277)*

Formerly known as Cornwall River, this is a little pocket of boreal forest in an otherwise unforested area. Beyond here you will be travelling in open tundra country. Watch for Northern Wheatears. In winter and early spring, Snowy Owls can be seen in the Richardson Mountains.

18 Yukon/Northwest Territories Border *km 465 (mi 291)*

You are now leaving the unglaciated landscape of the Eagle Plains. Once you have crossed the Richardson Mountains you will enter a

15 **Ogilvie Ridge/Gwazhal Niijik** *km 259 (mi. 161)*

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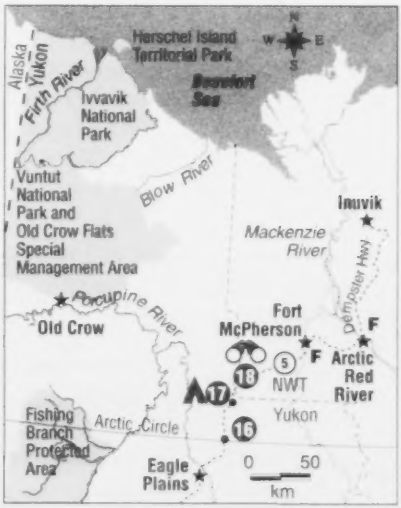


18 **Yukon/Northwest Territories Border** *km 465 (mi 291)*

You are now leaving the unglaciated landscape of the Eagle Plains. Once you have crossed the Richardson Mountains you will enter a

landscape scoured by the Laurentide ice sheet over 10,000 years ago. Learn more about wildlife, Beringian flora and First Nations history at the kiosk here.

Peel River ferry *km 539 (mi. 335)*

Fort McPherson *km 550 (mi. 342)*

Mackenzie River ferry *km 608 (mi. 378)*

Inuvik, NWT *km 726 (mi. 451)*

Inuvik is the centre of western arctic transportation to the following Yukon parks.

Common Eider

Bearded seal

Back-country wildlife viewing

Vuntut National Park and Old Crow Flats Special Management Area

Established following the Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation Land Claim Agreement, the park contains the Old Crow Flats, internationally recognized for its important wetlands.

Ivvavik National Park

Located on the Yukon's arctic coast, this park has much to offer naturalists. Barren-ground caribou, grizzly bear and muskox are only a few of the mammal species that can be seen. Glaucous Gull, Common Eider and Long-tailed Jaeger nest in this arctic habitat.

Herschel Island

Qikiqtaryuk is the Inuvialuit name for Herschel Island. Bowhead whales, ringed seals, bearded seals and barren-ground caribou are some of the species you may encounter. Watch for Peregrine Falcons, Rough-legged Hawks and Common Eiders as well as the beautiful blooms of the many arctic wildflowers. Canada's most westerly population of Black Guillemots nests at Pauline Cove.

Dempster Highway, near the Arctic Circle

SOUTH CANOL ROAD

Highway #6

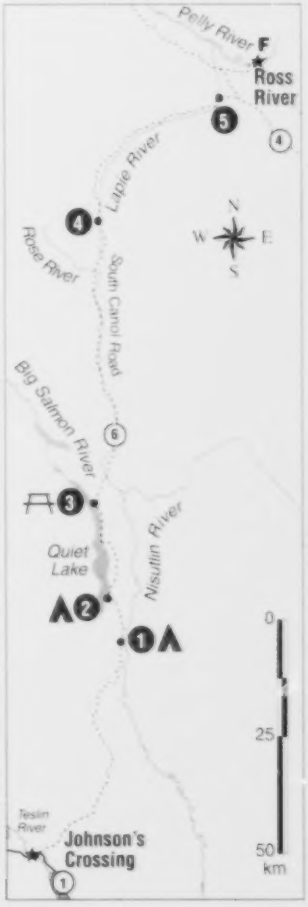
Distances are measured from the junction with the Alaska Highway.

This road is not as heavily travelled as other roads in the Yukon. This improves your chances of seeing wildlife from the road. The South Canol Road crosses many streams and rivers. These are usually excellent places to see wildlife. Waterfowl, moose, black bears and wolves are only a few of the species that you may encounter.

1 Nisutlin River Campground

km 67.5 (mi. 41)

A short gravel road takes you to the unmaintained Nisutlin River campground from where you can travel by boat to Nisutlin Bay on Teslin Lake (see page 11). This river offers a quiet and easy wilderness paddle of 180 km (108 mi.). Plan to take 4 to 6 days to complete the trip. Bald Eagles nest in tall trees on the riverbanks. Moose, bear and beavers are abundant along the shores. You may be fortunate and hear wolves serenade the night sky. Trumpeter Swans and other waterbirds breed in the numerous wetlands adjacent to the river. You can add a few days and a level of difficulty to your trip by putting in farther upstream on the Rose River.



2 Quiet Lake Campground

km 77 (mi. 47)

The boat launch here makes it easier to discover Quiet Lake by boat or canoe. The shoreline of this big lake attracts many wildlife species such as mink, moose and coyote, and songbirds such as the Tennessee Warbler, which is on the edge of its northwestern range here.

3 Quiet Lake Recreation Site

km 99 (mi. 60)

A popular wilderness canoe journey on the Big Salmon River begins from this campground and finishes in Carmacks, 350 km (218 mi.) away. Salmon spawn during August and September in Big Salmon River and grizzly bears are often seen at that time.

4 Lapie Lake

km 162.7 (mi. 101)

Lapie Lake is a beautiful lake to discover by canoe. A short dirt road takes you down to a boat launch and an unmaintained camping area on the lake's shore. Moose often come to graze on the shoreline. Waterfowl and Arctic Terns nest in the shallow bays around the lake. Listen for the call of the Savannah Sparrow in the shrubby willows and grasses around the lakeshore: "Sa sa sa vaaaaaaanah sparrow."

Arctic Terns

5 Lapie River Crossing #2

km 212.9 (mi. 132.3)

There is a beautiful view of the Lapie River canyon at the bridge. On the east side of the road, north of the bridge, you will find a pullout with an interpretive panel. From this pullout, look at the mountains to the west across the road. Stone sheep can sometimes be seen sunning themselves on the cliffs. For an even better view of the mountain, walk down the road, south of the bridge.

Junction with the Robert Campbell Highway, Highway #4

km 219 (mi. 133), see page 36

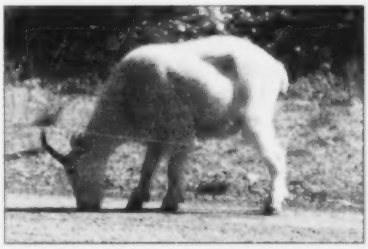
Savannah Sparrow *C. Eckert*

ATLIN ROAD — *Highway #7*

Distances are measured from the Alaska Highway #1 at Jake's Corner. (See page 15.)

1 **White Mountain** *km 9 (mi. 5.5)*

Watch for an interpretive sign on the east side of the road. White Mountain offers you an opportunity to view mountain goats. Scan the cliffs with binoculars or a telescope for goats perched high on the cliffs. If you want a closer look, follow the road behind the interpretive sign. This road is an abandoned segment of the Atlin Road. It goes up the side of the mountain. At the highest point, there is an overlook of Little Atlin Lake complete with interpretive signs and a good view of Mt. Minto and Mount Jubilee. Look up on the side of the mountain as goats often come down to this area to feed. A predator of goats, the Golden Eagle, also nests on these sheer cliffs. Look for their huge nest in the rock crevices. Please don't hike on the face of the mountain in May and June when the goats are with their young.



Mountain goat

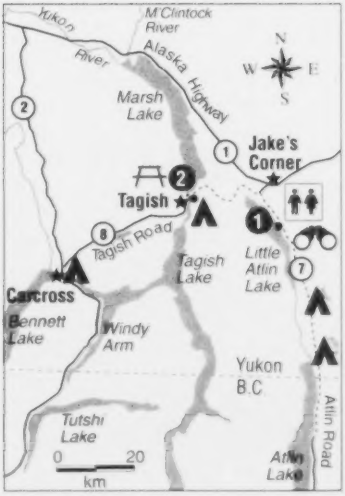
Atlin, B.C. *km 98 (mi. 61)*

TAGISH ROAD — *Highway #8*

2 **Tagish Bridge Recreation Site**

km 21.7 (mi. 13.5) from Jake's Corner
32.6 km (20.3 mi) from Carcross

Here the Six Mile River flows into Marsh Lake. Waterfowl stage here in spring. It is one of the first places in the Yukon where swans and other waterfowl appear in March. Located 1.5 km (1 mi.) northwest of the bridge is a Bald Eagle's nest. The bridge can be easily accessed from the campground. You will find a boat launch at the Tagish Campground just east of the bridge. This area is known for its Lake Trout, Whitefish, Lake Cisco and Arctic Grayling.



Distances are measured from the West Dawson Ferry landing.

The Top of the World Highway takes you through some spectacular tundra landscapes on your way to Alaska. Because of the open nature of the landscape, wildlife viewing opportunities are everywhere. Stop occasionally along the way and scan the area with binoculars. You can never tell what may be hiding in the open tundra. Caribou, red fox and gray wolves may be well camouflaged in the habitat.

Peregrine Falcon *D.M. Mossop*

1 Yukon River Campground *km 0.3 (mi. 0.2)*

An interpreted viewing deck overlooks the Yukon River. Across the river is a high cliff-face that is home to a family of Peregrine Falcons during the summer months. You may be fortunate to see the male return from the hunt. Listen for high-pitched calls from high up in the sky.

2 Fortymile Caribou range *km 12.4 (mi. 9)*

There is a large rest-stop area on the south side of the road. A short trail leads to a deck overlooking the Yukon River valley. Panels interpret the Fortymile Caribou Herd that roams this valley and the history of the people of this area.

Canada/USA border *km 105 (mi. 65)*

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Canada/USA border *km 105 (mi. 65)*

SILVER TRAIL — *Highway #11*

Distances are measured from the Klondike Highway. This highway, that lies in the traditonal territory of the Nacho Nyak Dun, provides easy access to alpine areas and many lakes. Take a few days to explore.

1 **Bank Swallows** *km 6.5 (mi. 3.9)*

A large colony of Bank Swallows nest on the silty cliffs of this river bank. Bank Swallows can be found in similar locations along all Yukon rivers.

Moose Calving Key Habitat Area *km 3.8 to 16 (mi. 2 to 10)*

This is a no-hunting zone to protect moose in this important calving area. In the spring, this is a likely place to view moose.

2 **Devil's Elbow Wetland** *km 10.3 (mi. 6.4)*

Discover the age-old movements of the moose, the river and the Nacho Nyak Dun, the Big River People. Interpretive panels lead you on a 750-m (less than 0.5 mi.) walk to a viewing deck overlooking the Stewart River Valley and its important wetland habitat for moose and waterfowl. The trailhead is located in the rest area to the south of the road. Bring your binoculars.

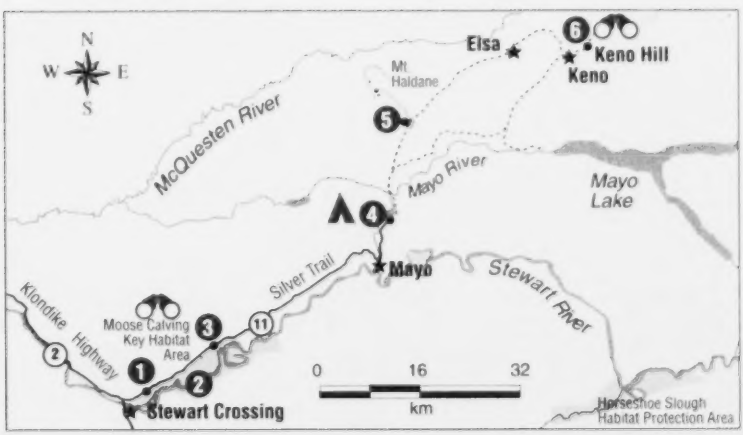
3 **Stewart River Lookout** *km 19 (mi. 11.8)*

Waterfowl nest in the adjacent sloughs, while swallows feed overhead. In the evening or early morning, you may be lucky to see moose feeding on aquatic vegetation.

Backcountry viewing: Wind, Bonnet Plume and Snake rivers

km 52 (mi. 69)

From Mayo, you can charter an aircraft that will take you to the Wind, Bonnet Plume or Snake rivers. These tributaries of the Peel River offer great opportunities for wilderness canoeing, but they do require whitewater-



Red-necked Phalarope *Stephen J. Krasemann*

paddling skills. This is a pristine corner of the Yukon where there are no roads and few developments. All rivers are clear with many good campsites. The many opportunities for alpine hiking improve your chances of seeing caribou, moose, wolves, grizzly bears, ptarmigan and maybe even Golden Eagles.

4 Five Mile Lake Campground

km 56.5 (mi. 35)

A trail around the lake provides access to a wetland that is particularly active in early June. Mule deer are sometimes seen on the hillsides. Across the Silver Trail, Lilypad Lake is an important stopover for migrating waterfowl. Look for diving species of ducks such as scoters, Ring-necked Ducks and Redheads.

5 Mount Haldane

km 76 (mi. 47)

Watch for the turnoff to the northeast just before Halfway Lakes. Follow a gravel road 3.5 km (2 mi.) to the trailhead. This 6.5 km (4 mi.) trail leads to the summit of Mount Haldane which offers wonderful opportunities to view subalpine fauna and flora. Estimated time is 6 hours return. A trail guide is available at the Binet House in Mayo.

Pika

6 Signpost Hill, Keno City

km 111 (mi. 69)

This area is renowned for its arctic butterflies, but there is far more to see. Collared pika and hoary marmots are commonly seen. The Signpost Road, which can be driven,

leads 10.5 km (6.5 mi.) to the milepost sign on top of Keno Hill. Learn more about alpine wildlife at the Keno Hill Alpine Interpretive Centre, beside the Keno City Mining Museum. Pick up your guide to *Viewing Alpine Wildlife on Keno Hill* and *Exploring Keno Hill: Stories of a silver deposit*.

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Hoary marmot

INDEX: SPECIES WITH LOCATIONS

This is a list of species mentioned at the various locations throughout the guide. However, it is not a complete list of all Yukon species. Species are not restricted to these areas but could be encountered in any appropriate habitat. Bold numbers indicate there is a photograph on that page, and there may also be text.

BIRDS

in taxonomic order

• WATERBIRDS

Loon, Red-throated
Arctic tundra 7
Marine and coastal **8**
Lake Laberge 28
Blackstone Uplands 41

Loon, Common
Still water 5
Lake Laberge Campground 28
Watson Lake 36
Little Salmon Lake 39
Chapman Lake 42

Grebe, Horned
Meadow Lake 31

Grebe, Red-necked
Wye Lake Trail 11
Cabin Creek Wetland 36

Cormorant, Double-crested
Lake Laberge 28

Swans
Arctic tundra 7
Nisutlin Delta National Wildlife Area 13
Johnson's Crossing 14
Swan Haven **15-16**
Aishihik Lake 22
Sulphur Lake 23
Kluane River 24
Duke Meadows 24
Swan Lake 25
Shallow Bay 28
Ts'wanjik Chu (Nordenskiold Wetlands) 29
Kluksha Wetland 34
Nisutlin River 46
Tagish Bridge 48

Goose, Greater White-fronted
Nisutlin Delta National Wildlife Area 13

Goose, Canada
Nisutlin Delta National Wildlife Area 13
Teslin Lake Interpretive Site 13

Wigeon, American
Still water 4
Nisutlin Delta National Wildlife Area 13
Yukon River Bridge 16
Pickhandle Lake 25
Bennett and Nares lakes 26
Kathleen River bridge 35
Two Moose Lake 42

Mallard
Nisutlin Delta National Wildlife Area 13

Pintail, Northern
Still water 4
Teslin Lake Interpretive Site 13
Yukon River Bridge 16
Pickhandle Lake 25
Bennett and Nares lakes 26
Kathleen River bridge 35

Teal, Green-winged
Still water 4
Bennett and Nares lakes 26
Ts'wanjik Chu (Nordenskiold Wetlands) 29

Canvasback
Yukon River Bridge 16

Redhead
Five Mile Lake 51

Scaup, Lesser
Still water 4
Pickhandle Lake 25
Ts'wanjik Chu (Nordenskiold Wetlands) 29
Frances Lake 36

Eider, Common
Marine and coastal 8
Ivvavik National Park **45**
Herschel Island 45

Scoter, Black
Gravel Lake 32

Duck, Harlequin
Flowing water 5
Annie Lake Road 27
Kathleen River bridge 35
Two Moose Lake **42**

Long-tailed ducks
Arctic tundra 7
Blackstone Uplands **41**

Duck, Ring-necked
Five Mile Lake 51

Goldeneye, Barrow's
Nisutlin Delta National Wildlife Area 13
McIntyre Marsh 20
Pickhandle Lake 25

Bufflehead
Pickhandle Lake 25

Merganser
Yukon River Bridge 16
Frances Lake 36

Duck, Ruddy
Ts'wanjik Chu (Nordenskiold Wetlands) 29
Gravel Lake 32

• RAPTORS

Osprey
Still water 5
Squanga Lake 14-15
Watson Lake 36

Northern Harriers
Shallow Bay 28

Eagle, Bald
Still water 5
Wolf River 12
Swan Haven 16
Yukon River Bridge 16
Yukon River **19**
Sulphur Lake 23
Kluane River 24
Kluane River overlook 25
Watson Lake 36
Nisutlin River 46
Tagish Bridge 48

Eagle, Golden
Mountain habitats 7
Annie Lake Road 27
Angelcomb Peak 41
Blackstone Uplands 41
Engineer Creek Campground 43
White Mountain 48
Wind, Bonnet Plume and Snake rivers 51

Hawk, Rough-legged
Marine and coastal 8
Herschel Island 45

Kestrel, American
Yukon River Bridge 16
Dempster Highway Interpretive Centre 40

Falcon, Peregrine
Nisutlin Delta National Wildlife Area 13
Yukon River 19
Swan Lake 25
Engineer Creek Campground 43
Herschel Island 45
Yukon River Campground **49**

Gyrfalcon
Mountain habitats 7
Fish and Jackson lakes 20
Annie Lake Road 27
Haines Road 34
Gyrfalcon nest **43**
Engineer Creek Campground 43

• GROUSE-LIKE BIRDS

Grouse, Sharp-tailed
Boreal forest 6
Duke Meadows 24
Gravel Lake 32

Grouse, Spruce
Boreal forest 6
Wolf Creek 17

Ptarmigan
Mountain habitats 7
Fish and Jackson lakes 20
Annie Lake Road 27
Haines Road 34
Blackstone Uplands **41**
Wind, Bonnet Plume and Snake rivers 51

Sora
Ts'wanjik Chu (Nordenskiold Wetlands) 29

Coot, American
Tthi Ndu Mun **30**
Meadow Lake 31
Two Moose Lake 42

Crane, Sandhill
Tthi Ndu Mun 30
Fingers Site 38

• SHOREBIRDS

Plover, American Golden
Fish and Jackson lakes 20
Blackstone Uplands 41

Yellowlegs, Lesser
Fox Lake 28
Kathleen River bridge 35

Wandering Tattler
Windy Pass 42

Sandpiper, Spotted
Flowing water 5
Kathleen River bridge 35

Sandpiper, Upland
Takhini Burn 21
Duke Meadows 24

Whimbrel
Blackstone Uplands 41

Phalarope, Red-necked
Arctic tundra 7
Two Moose Lake 42
Five Mile Lake **51**

• GULL-LIKE BIRDS

Jaeger, Long-tailed
Arctic tundra 7
Blackstone Uplands 41
Ivvavik National Park 45

Gull, Bonaparte's
Kookatsoon Lake 27

Gull, Glaucous
Ivvavik National Park 45

Tern, Arctic
Marine and coastal 8
Lapie Lake **47**

Guillemot, Black
Herschel Island 45

• OWLS

Owl, Great Gray
Boreal forest 6

Owl, Snowy
Marine and coastal 8
Rock River 44

Owl, Northern Hawk
Takhini Burn 21
Snag Junction 25
Dempster Highway Interpretive Centre 40

Owl, Short-eared
Shallow Bay 28
Blackstone Uplands 41
Arctic Circle 44

Kingfisher, Belted
Miles Canyon 17

• WOODPECKERS

Flicker, Northern
Liard Canyon, Lucky Lake 11

Woodpecker, Pileated
Wye Lake Trail 11

• PERCHING BIRDS

Wood-Pewee, Western
Kathleen River bridge 35

Jay, Gray
Boreal forest 6
Liard Canyon, Lucky Lake 11
Wolf Creek **17**
Pine Lake 22

Raven, Common
Lapie River Campground **37**
Fingers Site 38

Swallow, Tree
Wye Lake Trail 11
McIntyre Marsh **20**
Stewart River Lookout 50

Swallow, Violet-green
Wye Lake Trail 11
Miles Canyon 17
Tom Creek Wetland 36
Stewart River Lookout 50

Swallow, Bank
Flowing water 5
Miles Canyon 17
Bank Swallows 50
Stewart River Lookout 50

Swallow, Cliff
Johnson's Crossing 14
Jake's Corner **15**
Miles Canyon 17
Stewart River Lookout 50

Chickadee, Black-eyed
Liard Canyon, Lucky Lake 11

Chickadee, Boreal
Boreal forest 6
Liard Canyon, Lucky Lake 11
Wolf Creek 17
McIntyre Marsh 20
Pine Lake 22

Dipper, American
Flowing water 5
Rancheria Falls 12
Otter Falls 22

Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
Boreal forest 6
Chadburn Lake 18
Pine Lake 22
Tom Creek Wetland 36

Wheatear, Northern
North Fork Pass 40
Rock River 44

Solitare, Townsend's
Miles Canyon 17

Thrush, Gray-cheeked
Two Moose Lake 42

Thrush, Swainson's
Chadburn Lake 18

Pipit, American
Two Moose Lake 42

Watertrush, Northern
Chadburn Lake 18
Moose Creek 32

Warbler, Tennessee
Quiet Lake 46

Warbler, Yellow
Still water 5
Chadburn Lake 18

Yellowthroat, Common
Yukon College Boreal Worlds Trail 19
Moose Creek 32
Kathleen River bridge 35
Tom Creek Wetland 36

Warbler, Wilson's
Arctic tundra 7
Moose Creek 32
Dempster Highway Interpretive Centre 40

Sparrow, American Tree
Five Finger Rapids 29

Sparrow, Clay-coloured
Wye Lake Trail 11

Sparrow, Savannah
Lapie Lake **47**

Sparrow, Fox
Wolf Creek 17

Sparrow, Swamp
Wye Lake Trail 11

Sparrow, White-throated
Wye Lake Trail 11

Sparrow, White-crowned
Arctic tundra 7
Five Finger Rapids 29

Junco, Slate-coloured
Boreal forest 6
Dempster Highway Interpretive Centre 40

Bunting, Snow
Marine and coastal 8
Blackstone Uplands 41

Longspur, Lapland
Marine and coastal 8
Blackstone Uplands 41

Longspur, Smith's
Arctic Circle 44

Blackbird, Red-winged
Ts'wanjik Chu (Nordenskiold Wetlands) 29

Blackbird, Rusty
Yukon College Boreal Worlds Trail 19
Tom Creek Wetland 36

Redpoll, Common
Arctic tundra 7
Marine and coastal 8
Blackstone Uplands 41

MAMMALS

Bats, Little Brown
Hidden Lakes 18
Chadburn Lake **18**

Bear, Black
Boreal forest 6
South-facing slopes 8
Yukon River 19
Pine Lake 22
Kluane National Park Reserve Visitor Reception Centre 23
Haines Road 34
South Canol Road 46
Nisutlin River 46

Bear, Grizzly
Still water 5
Flowing water 5
Mountain habitats 7
Marine and coastal 8
South-facing slopes 8
Wolf River 12
Kusawa Lake 21
Kluane National Park Reserve Visitor Reception Centre 23
Alsek River 23
Congdon Creek 24
Kluane River 25
Elk and bear viewing 28-29
Haines Road 34
Shawshe 34
Klukshu River 34
Dezadeash Trail **35**
Robert Campbell Highway 36
Chapman Lake 42
Arctic Circle 44
Ivvavik National Park 45
Quiet Lake 46
Wind, Bonnet Plume and Snake rivers 51

Bear, Polar
Marine and coastal 8

Beaver
Still water 5
Wolf Creek 17
Hidden Lakes 18
Yukon College Boreal Worlds Trail 19
McIntyre Marsh 20
Ts'wanjik Chu (Nordenskiold Wetlands) 29
Nisutlin River 46

Bison, Wood
Mountain habitats 7
Aishihik Lake **22**

Caribou
Introduction **2**
Boreal forest 6
Mountain habitats 7
Marine and coastal 8
Little Rancheria 11
Caribou range map 12
Jake's Corner **15**
Finlayson Lake 36
Blackstone Uplands 41
Chapman Lake 42
Windy Pass **42**
Arctic Circle 44
Ivvavik National Park 45
Herschel Island 45
Top of the World Highway 49
Fortymile Caribou range 49
Wind, Bonnet Plume and Snake rivers 51

Chipmunk, Least
South-facing slopes 8
Rancheria Falls 12
Miles Canyon 17
Chadburn Lake 18

Coyote
Boreal forest 6
Nisutlin Delta National Wildlife Area 13
Swan Haven 16
Wolf Creek 17
McIntyre Marsh 20
Takhini Burn **21**
Quiet Lake 46

Deer, Mule
South-facing slopes 8
Yukon River Bridge 16
Takhini Burn 21
Tatchun/Frenchman Road 30
Five Mile Lake 51

Elk, Rocky Mountain
South-facing slopes 8
Elk viewing 21
Takhini Burn 21
Elk and bear viewing 28-29

Fox, Arctic
Marine and coastal 8

Fox, Red
Boreal forest 6
Nisutlin Delta National Wildlife Area 13
McIntyre Marsh 20
Swan Lake 25
Ts'wanjik Chu (Nordenskiold Wetlands) 29
Blackstone Uplands 41
Top of the World Highway 49

Goat, Mountain
Mountain habitats 7
Alsek River 23
Yukon/B.C. border 26
White Mountain **48**

Hare, Snowshoe
Flowing water 5
Boreal forest 6
Mountain habitats 7
Wolf Creek 17
Chadburn Lake 18
Yukon College Boreal Worlds Trail 19

Lynx, Canadian
Boreal forest 6
Wolf Creek 17

Marmot, Hoary
Mountain habitats 7
Angelcomb Peak 41
Signpost Hill 51
Photograph **54**

Marten, Pine
Boreal forest 6

Mink
Flowing water 5
Ts'wanjik Chu (Nordenskiold Wetlands) 29
Quiet Lake 46

Moose
Still water 5
Flowing water 5
Boreal forest **6**
Wolf River 12
Yukon River 19
Aishihik Lake 22
Kluane National Park Reserve Visitor Reception Centre 23
Ts'wanjik Chu (Nordenskiold Wetlands) 29
Meadow Lake **30**
Ethel Lake Campground 31
Dezadeash Trail 35
Robert Campbell Highway 36
Cabin Creek Wetland 36
Two Moose Lake 42
South Canol Road 46
Nisutlin River 46
Quiet Lake 46
Lapie Lake 47
Moose calving 50
Devil's Elbow Wetland 50
Stewart River Lookout 50
Wind, Bonnet Plume and Snake rivers 51

Muskox
Ivvavik National Park 45

Muskrat
Still water 5
Flowing water 5
Yukon College Boreal Worlds Trail 19
McIntyre Marsh 20
Pickhandle Lake 25
Swan Lake 25
Fox Lake 28
Ts'wanjik Chu (Nordenskiold Wetlands) 29

Otter, River
Flowing water 5
McIntyre Marsh 20

Pika, Collared
Mountain habitats 7
Angelcomb Peak 41
Signpost Hill **51**

Seals
Marine and coastal 8
Herschel Island **45**

Sheep, Dall
Mountain habitats 7
Kusawa Lake 21
Kluane National Park Reserve Visitor Reception Centre 23
Alsek River **23**
Tachäl Dhäl (Sheep Mountain), Kluane 24
Yukon/B.C. border 26
Annie Lake Road 27
Angelcomb Peak 41

Sheep, Fannin
Mountain habitats 7
Ddhaw Ghro Special Management Area 31
Faro viewing sites **37-39**

Sheep, Stone
Mountain habitats 7
Deadman's Creek 13-14
Lapie River Crossing #2 47

Squirrel, Arctic Ground
Mountain habitats 7
South-facing slopes 8
Miles Canyon 17
Kusawa Lake 21
Robert Campbell Highway 36

Squirrel, Red
Boreal forest 6
Chadburn Lake 18
Yukon College Boreal Worlds Trail 19
Pine Lake 22

Whales
Marine and coastal 8
Herschel Island 45

Wolf, Gray
Still water 5
Flowing water 5
Mountain habitats 7
Marine and coastal 8
Wolf River 12
Nisutlin Delta National Wildlife Area 13
Swan Haven 16
Aishihik Lake 23
Kluane National Park Reserve Visitor Reception Centre 23

Sulphur Lake 23
Robert Campbell Highway 36
Chapman Lake 42
South Canol Road 46
Nisutlin River 46
Top of the World Highway 49
Wind, Bonnet Plume and Snake rivers 51

FISH

Arctic Grayling
Flowing water 5
Squanga Lake 15
Bennett and Nares lakes 26
Tagish Bridge 48

Bull Trout
Beaver River **10**

Burbot
Squanga Lake 15

Cisco, Lake
Tagish Bridge 48

Lake Trout
Still water 5
Squanga Lake 15
Bennett and Nares lakes 26
Ethel Lake Campground 31
Tagish Bridge 48

Northern Pike
Still water 4
Squanga Lake 15
Swan Haven 16
Bennett and Nares lakes 26
Ethel Lake Campground 31

Rainbow Trout
Fisheye Lake 39

Salmon
Flowing water 5
Fishing 10
Wolf River 12
Wolf Creek 17
Whitehorse Rapids and Fish Ladder 18
Kluane River 24-25
Bennett and Nares lakes 26
Klondike River 32
Shawshe 34
Faro 37
Fisheye Lake 39
Quiet Lake 46

Whitefish, Lake
Still water 5
Flowing water 5
Squanga Lake 14-15
Bennett and Nares lakes 26
Tagish Bridge 48

INDEX: WILDLIFE VIEWING SITES

This is an alphabetical list of all the sites mentioned in this guide with a reference to the page number where you will find more information.

A
Aishihik Lake 22
Aishihik Road 22
Alaska Highway 11-25
Alsek River 23
Angelcomb Peak 41
Annie Lake Road 27
Arctic Circle 44
Atlin B.C. 48
Atlin Road 48

B
Beaver Creek 25
Bennett Lake 26
Blackstone Uplands 41
Bonnet Plume River 50-51

C
Cabin Creek Wetland 36
Campbell Region Interpretive Centre 37
Canada/USA border 49
Carcross Desert viewpoint 26
Chadburn Lake 18
Chapman Lake 42
Congdon Creek 24
Crocus Bluff Trail 33

D
Dawson City 33
Ddhaw Ghro Special Management Area 31
Deadman's Creek 13-14
Dempster Highway 40-45
Dempster Highway Interpretive Centre 40
Devil's Elbow Wetland 50
Dezadeash Trail 35
Drunken Forest 31
Duke Meadows 24

E
Eagle Plains Hotel 44
Engineer Creek Campground 43
Engineer Creek sheep lick 43
Ethel Lake Campground 31

F
Faro 37
Faro Arboretum 38
Fingers Site 5
Finlayson Lake 36
Fish Lake 20
Fisheye Lake 39
Five Finger Rapids Recreation Site 29
Five Mile Lake Campground 51
Fortymile Caribou range 49
Fox Lake 28
Fox Lake Burn 28
Frances Lake Campground 36

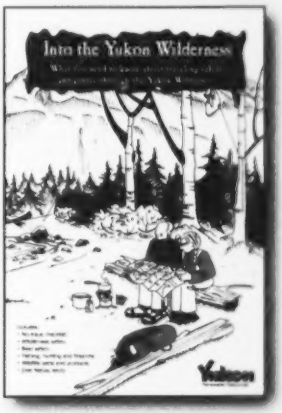
G
Gravel Lake 32

H
Haines Road 34-35
Herschel Island 45
Hidden Lakes 18
Highway #1 11-25
Highway #11 50-52
Highway #2 26-33
Highway #3 34-35
Highway #4 36-39
Highway #5 40-45
Highway #6 46-47
Highway #7 48
Highway #8 48
Highway #9 49

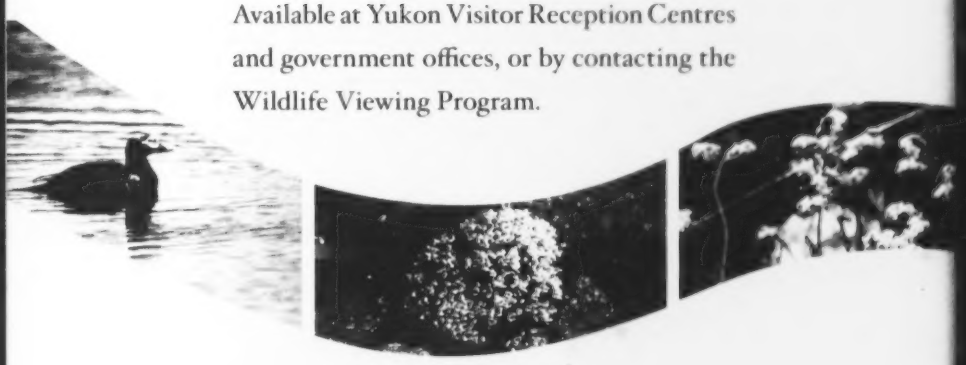
I
Inuvik, NWT 45
Ivvavik National Park 45

J
Jackson Lake 20
Jake's Corner 15
Johnson Lake Campground 37
Johnson's Crossing — Teslin River 14

You can get more information about wildlife viewing and trips into the backcountry from:



Available at Yukon Visitor Reception Centres and government offices, or by contacting the Wildlife Viewing Program.



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K

Kathleen River bridge 35
Klondike Highway 26-33
Klondike River 32
Klondike River Campground 33
Kluane National Park Reserve Visitor Reception Centre 23
Kluane River 24-25
Klukshu River 34
Klukshu Wetland overlook 34
Kookatsoon Lake 27
Kusawa Lake Campground 21
Kusawa Lake Road 21

L

L'hutsuw Wetlands 30
Lake Laberge 28
Lapie Lake 47
Lapie River Campground 37
Lapie River Crossing #2 47
Liard Canyon, Lucky Lake 11
Little Rancheria 11
Little Salmon Lake 39

M

M'Clintock Bay 15-16
McIntyre Marsh 20
Meadow Lake 30-31
Miles Canyon 17
Moose Creek 32
Mount Haldane 51
Mount Mye Sheep Centre 39

N

Nares Lake 26
Nisutlin Delta National Wildlife Area 13
Nisutlin River Campground 46
North Fork Pass Overlook 40
North Fork Pass Summit 40
North Klondike Highway 28-33

O

Ogilvie Ridge/Gwazhal Niijik 44
Otter Falls 22

P

Pickhandle Lake 25
Pine Lake 22

Q

Quiet Lake Campground 46
Quiet Lake Recreation Site 46

R

Rancheria Falls 12
Red Creek and Sulphur Springs 43
Robert Campbell Highway 36-39
Rock River 44

S

Shallow Bay, Lake Laberge 28
Shäwshe 34
Sheep lick and trails 43
Sheep Mineral Lick 39
Sheep Mountain Viewing Platform 38
Signpost Hill, Keno Cty 51-52
Silver Trail 50-52
Snag Junction 25
Snake River 50-51
South Canol Road 46-47
South Klondike Highway 26-27
Spruce Beetle Interpretive Trail 23
Squanga Lake 14-15
Sulphur Lake 23
Swan Haven 15-16
Swan Lake 25

T

Tachäl Dhäl (Sheep Mountain) Visitor Information Centre 24
Tage-Cho-Hudan Interpretive Centre, Carmacks 29
Tagish Bridge 48
Tagish Road 48
Takhini Burn 21
Takhini Salt Flats 21
Tatchun/Frenchman Road 30
Tatshenshini River viewpoint 34
Teslin Lake Interpretive Site 13
Tintina Trench viewpoint 32
Tom Creek Wetland 36
Tombstone Territorial Park 40
Top of the World Highway 49
Ts'wanjik Chu (Nordenskiold Wetlands) 29
Tthi Ndu Mun 30
Two Moose Lake 42

V

Van Gorder Falls Trail 37
Vuntut National Park 45

W

Watson Lake 36
White Mountain 48
Whitehorse Rapids and Fish Ladder 18
Wind River 50-51
Windy Pass 42
Wolf Creek 17
Wolf River 12-13
Wye Lake Trail 11

Y

Yukon College Boreal Worlds Trail 19
Yukon River 19
Yukon River Bridge 16
Yukon River Campground 49
Yukon/B.C. border 26

CONTACTS

Wildlife Viewing Program
Environment Yukon
Government of the Yukon
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
(867) 667-8291, fax (867) 393-6263
toll free in the Yukon 1-800-661-0408, ext. 8291
http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/viewing

Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Environment Yukon
Government of the Yukon; Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
(867) 667-5648, fax (867) 393-6223
toll free in the Yukon 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5648
http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca

Turn in Poachers (T.I.P.S.) Hotline
Environment Yukon
toll free in the Yukon 1-800-661-0525

Yukon Conservation Officers
Environment Yukon
Dawson City (867) 993-5492
Faro (867) 994-2862
Haines Junction (867) 634-2247
Mayo (867) 996-2202
Ross River (867) 969-2202
Teslin (867) 390-2685
Watson Lake (867) 536-7363
Whitehorse (867) 393-7078

Tourism Yukon
Government of the Yukon
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
(867) 667-5036, fax (867) 667-3546
toll free in the Yukon 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5036
info@touryukon.com, www.touryukon.com

Visitor Reception and Interpretive Centres
Beaver Creek (867) 862-7321
Carcross (867) 821-4431
Carmacks (867) 863-5830
Dawson City (867) 993-5566
Faro (867) 994-2288
Haines Junction (867) 634-2345
Mayo (867) 996-2926
Pelly Crossing (867) 537-3331
Watson Lake (867) 536-7469
Whitehorse (867) 667-3084

Canadian Heritage
Parks Canada
205-300 Main Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2B5
(867) 667-3910
http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/pn-np/index_E.asp

Kluane National Park & Reserve
Box 5495, Haines Junction, Yukon Y0B 1L0
(867) 634-7250, fax (867) 634-7208

Vuntut National Park (867) 667-3910
http://parkscan.harbour.com/vuntut

Ivvavik National Park (867) 777-8800

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
100-419 Range Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3V1
(867) 393-6722

Yukon Bird Club
Box 31054, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5P7
ybc@yknet.yk.ca
www.yukonweb.com/community/ybc/

Yukon Fish and Game Association
4061-4th Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1H1
(867) 667-4263
www.yukonfga.com

Wilderness Tourism Association of Yukon
1-1114 1st Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3C9
(867) 668-3369
www.wtay.com

Yukon Trappers Association
108B Copper Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2Z6
(867) 667-7091

Yukon Conservation Society
302 Hawkins Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1X6
(867) 668-5678
ycs@ycs.yk.ca
www.yukonconservation.org

Map sales
Mac's Fireweed Books
203 Main Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2B2
(867) 668-2434

Report Forest Fires
Toll free 1-888-798-3473